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Latin America

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Delegation Named To Attend UN Meeting on Drugs

PY1902141690 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 19 Feb 90

[Excerpts] A special UN meeting on drug trafficking will start in New York tomorrow. The Bolivian (?delegation) to the meeting will be made up of Foreign Minister Carlos Iturralde, Foreign Ministry Deputy Secretary Javier Murillo de la Rocha, Ambassador in Washington Jorge Crespo, and Presidential Economic Adviser Samuel Doria Medina. The delegation is already in New York because the foreign minister and the Foreign Ministry deputy secretary left the Cartagena summit for New York.

During the three-day assembly, the Bolivian delegation will report on the position Bolivia took at the Cartagena summit. [passage omitted]

According to Foreign Ministry sources, the delegation will return to Bolivia next weekend.

Jamaican Strike Force Proposal Faces Opposition

FL1602193690 Bridgetown CANA in English 1549 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Text] United Nations, Feb 16, CANA—As the UN prepares for next week's international conference on drugs, Jamaica's proposal for a multi-national anti-drug strike force is running into serious trouble because of the recent U.S. invasion of Panama, diplomatic sources said. St. Lucia's UN ambassador, Dr. Charles Flemming, said that Caribbean countries were even encountering serious opposition as they tried to get the proposal placed on the agenda for discussion at the conference

"We are not quite sure it is going to be discussed," he said. "Jamaica's proposal for a strike force is still being considered in the light of the Panama action. Some Latin American nations are very very nervous about the Jamaican proposal. So, we are going very slowly and gingerly. We hope to get it on the agenda but we are not quite sure."

The St. Lucia envoy suggested that the recent invasion of Panama would have an adverse effect on any plan to use foreign military forces in Latin America to fight the major drug barons and to reduce the flow of illicit drugs throughout the Western Hemisphere.

"We believe that so soon after the Panama action, a lot of countries would be unwilling to go as far as they might have done previously as far as agreements were concerned," he added. "Certainly, many small and middle-size countries can't fight this battle alone. There is need for overseas assistance, help with the police and the military. But Latin countries have always had this fear of intervention from larger countries in the hemisphere."

The diplomat added: "Coming so soon after Panama, they are still nervous about any suggestion of using foreign troops in any form in the region." In short, said Dr. Flemming, the U.S. invasion of Panama was expected to have a "dampening effect" on the kinds of agreements that could be reached at the conference.

Jamaica's prime minister, Michael Manley, proposed almost a year ago that a multi-national strike force be set up under the UN umbrella to aid countries in their battle against organized drug cartels. While Manley was praised in the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives as well as by the Bush administration in Washington for what was often described as a "courageous" idea, several developing countries at the UN were lukewarm to any suggestion that foreign troops be employed on their soil.

When U.S. President George Bush, Colombia's leader, Virgilio Barco Vargas, Peru's president, Alan Garcia, and Jaime Paz Zamora, the president of Bolivia, met in Barranquilla, Colombia on Thursday, they declined to approve any expansion in the use of U.S. military forces in the drug war.

The international drug conference begins on February 20 in New York.

Reaction to Cartagena Antidrug Summit

PA1702001790 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2000 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Text] Mexico City, 16 Feb (DPA)—Several Latin American newspapers today described the antidrug summit, which was concluded in Cartagena de Indias yesterday, as "a great step ahead" in the antidrug struggle and as a fresh start in U.S.-Latin American relations.

Mexican newspapers have said that the statement that the presidents of Bolivia, Colombia, the United States, and Peru signed in Cartagena yesterday is a "great step ahead" in the joint international effort against drugs. The newspapers, however, warned against excessive optimism over the agreements.

UNOMASUNO, which reported on the summit extensively, pointed out: "Any optimism stemming from the Cartagena agreements has to be toned down because of both the circumstances that stimulate drug addiction and the important deficiencies in the Bush program against this drug addiction."

The paper admitted, however, that the summit statement is "a broad program" for diminishing the drug supply and consumption, substituting for coca planting and harvesting, and preventing money laundering.

EXCELSIOR, which agreed that the statement is "a step ahead," had this to say: "From now on, the challenge will consist of ensuring that (the purposes of the document) are turned into facts."

EL DIA played down the importance of the accords and said that President Bush will be unanimously recognized when the United States "ceases to be the greatest drug addict and the primary threat to security and peace around the world."

The Brazilian newspapers today said that the Cartagena summit revealed that President Bush seems to be interested in increasing U.S. cooperation in economic and social development projects in Latin American countries. JORNAL DO BRASIL editorialized: "The pressure of drugs is achieving what decades upon decades of reproach and resentment could not. The United States is paying proper attention to what happens south of the Rio Grande." The paper added that drug trafficking could take the place of the Soviet Union as the "great enemy" of the United States.

Peruvian newspapers, without exception, today reported extensively on the Cartagena antidrug summit, but so far without editorializing. The only reactions reported are those of some parliamentarians who commented on the meeting's importance in general. As yet, there has been no official reaction. According to a Cartagena press dispatch received in Lima, the only such reaction is that of President Alan Garcia, who said that the $450 million the United States has offered for 1991 "is very little money." Garcia added that the U.S. budget is worth $400 billion and that Bush offers a thousandth of this amount to resolve a problem Bush describes as the most serious in his country.

Garcia said: "I do not want any gifts." He said that he told Bush that he does not need helicopters or machine guns, but that Bush should become a direct associate of the peasants by lending them money, buying their products, and ensuring that their product reaches the market.

Regional Reaction to Drug Summit

PA1802005490

[Editorial Report] Initial Central American and Andean reaction to the 15 February drug summit held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia has been moderate both in volume and content and marked by the absence of government or media reaction from monitored Nicaraguan sources. Overall Latin American reaction to the drug summit has highlighted the U.S. admission that drug consumption is part of the drug problem and that drug trafficking is "mainly" an economic problem.

COLOMBIA

The first Colombian media reaction states that "Colombians were divided today on the issue of U.S. President George Bush's visit" to Colombia. According to the report, the Colombian newspaper EL TIEMPO greeted President Bush "very cordially," while most prominent political leaders, ranging from radicals to liberals to leftists, criticized U.S. trade and political relations with Latin America. The report notes that students and workers staged several demonstrations in Bogota protesting Bush's visit to Colombia. [Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2334 GMT 15 Feb 90]

In statements in Washington Victor Mosquera, Colombian Ambassador to the United States, said that "bilateral agreements" will be needed to implement some of the Cartagena Declaration provisions, including "the one dealing with the distribution of goods and properties confiscated from drug traffickers among the countries involved" in the struggle against drug trafficking. No date for Ambassador Mosquera's statements is given. [Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Feb 90]

A unattributed radio commentary states that Colombian and U.S. reporters have expressed their disappointment about "the content" of the Cartagena Declaration because, among other things, it "fails to specify how much money will be given to the countries that will need to replace their coca crops with other crops." [Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Feb 90]

In an interview conducted in Cartagena, Colombian Justice Minister Roberto Salazar stresses the importance of the exchange of legal and judicial information agreed upon in the Cartagena Declaration. Minister Salazar also stresses that the declaration will permit governments to use the gains and goods confiscated from drug traffickers, "which may contribute toward modernizing the Colombian judicial sector." [Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1322 GMT 16 Feb 90]

Colombian economist Luis Garcia makes statements to Colombian television and states that as far as economic matters are concerned, although the Cartagena Declaration "identifies problems and countries' interests, it lacks specific provisions that could help us determine whether it will be beneficial for us." Economist Garcia questions the Cartagena Declaration's real power to control drug trafficking because, he says, "drug trafficking produces large profits and therefore is the kind of business that always finds people willing to participate in it." [Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 1730 GMT 16 Feb 90]

Colombian Foreign Minister Julio Londono says the Cartagena summit's major success is "the change in the U.S. attitude toward the drug problem." No date for Londono's statements is given. The report adds that Londono "applauded the U.S. decision to assume its share of responsibility in the drug problem." The report concludes by saying Londono is glad to see that the United States is aware that the "cocaine production and trafficking problem will end only with an economic aid program for the Andean countries." [Paris AFP in Spanish 0011 GMT 17 Feb 90]

COSTA RICA

Monitored Costa Rican sources and press agency reports have carried no Costa Rican Government or media reaction to the Cartagena summit.

CUBA

Havana's only media reaction appears in a 17 February "Our America" commentary. The commentary views the drug summit as "a positive foundation" because, "at least on paper," the United States has admitted that the drug problem "has its basic roots in economics" and that it has a great deal of responsibility for it since "North Americans are the main consumers of hallucinogens in the world." [Havana International Service in Spanish 0015 GMT 17 Feb 90]

ECUADOR

Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Diego Cordovez describes the antidrug summit as "very positive." He states that although cocaine production is not a major problem in his country, Ecuador must adopt preventive measures, and thus will sign international cooperation agreements similar to those signed at the Cartagena summit. Cordovez adds that as a result of talks with a ranking U.S. State Department official who visited his country some time ago, "the drug cooperation program that was started in Ecuador a few years back will be increased." [Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 15 Feb 90]

Ecuadoran Government Minister Andres Vallejo says he feels "a great satisfaction" for not having attended the drug summit. He states that contrary to the other countries, Ecuador has been spared the economic dependence and violence brought about by drug traffickers' actions and intends to keep it that way "at any cost." Meanwhile, Congress President Wilfrido Lucero complains that Ecuador should have been invited to the summit, even though its situation is different from that of Colombia, Peru, and Boliva, and blames the exclusion on the United States. He adds: "I want to know if the United States is simply going to hunt for drug lords in other countries without telling us who the drug lords are in their own country." Lucero expresses concern over the possibility that Latin Americans are viewed as the bad guys while the United States is absolved. [Paris AFP in Spanish 0101 GMT 16 Feb 90]

EL SALVADOR

Monitored Salvadoran voice and print media, and press agency reports have carried no Salvadoran Government or media reaction to the Cartagena summit.

GUATEMALA

Mario Sandoval, in an article entitled "Historic Meeting" appearing in the newspaper PRENSA LIBRE, says the presence of Presidents Bush, Paz, Barco, and Garcia at the Cartagena summit "marked the symbolic beginning of a new phase in the international war against drug trafficking." He praises the courage and "political realism" of these presidents. Sandoval says Garcia deserves great applause for underscoring that drug trafficking is "a crime against humanity" and for making it clear that this is a shared responsibility. He also gives high marks to Bush for attending the summit despite all sorts of threats on his life. [Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 16 Feb 90 p 10]

Guatemala's Teleonce Television reports that "the three Andean presidents emphasized that the antidrug struggle headed by U.S. President George Bush is more an economic problem than a criminal case or moral dilemma. On his part, Bush admitted U.S. responsibility because it has become a multimillion-dollar market for cocaine." The station adds that Colombian President Virgilio Barco greeted Bush with a serious warning: "This is a global problem; not a problem of a few countries."

The station points out that the Cartagena Declaration, which was signed during the summit, "made many promises of cooperation but produced very little on specific issues such as U.S. aid to help poor peasants switch their lucrative coca crops to other crops, the possibility of real military cooperation to fight the drug traffickers, a joint effort to bring coca barons to U.S. justice, and new measures to erradicate the demand for drugs." [Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 0400 GMT 16 Feb 90]

HONDURAS

Monitored Honduran voice and press media and press agency reports carry no Honduran Government or media reaction to the summit.

MEXICO

Mexican President Carlos Salinas says the antidrug summit "was very positive because it allowed a dialogue between the leaders of producer and consumer nations. The results indicate that the right path is being followed because it was admitted that the antidrug struggle cannot be tackled by focusing only on one aspect of it; it was emphasized that all aspects must be attacked: production, trafficking, and consumption. This is a very encouraging accomplishment because it shows that in the face of this international problem no nation will be able to defeat the drug traffickers alone." He added: "As I have said: The responsibility for fighting drug traffickers in Mexico is the exclusive duty of the Mexicans." [Mexico City XHTV Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 17 Feb 90]

Mexican newspapers agree that the signing of the Cartagena Declaration is a "great step forward" in the antidrug struggle and the beginning of a new era in U.S.-Latin American relations. The Newspaper UNOMASUNO points out that "any optimism stemming from the Cartagena agreements must be toned down because of both the circumstances that stimulate drug addiction and the important deficiencies in the Bush program against this drug addiction." Meanwhile, the newspaper EXCELSIOR states that "from now on, the challenge will consist of ensuring that (the aims of the document) are turned into realities." The newspaper EL DIA says Bush will be acknowledged when the United States "ceases to be the greatest drug addict and the primary threat to security and peace around the world." [Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2000 GMT 16 Feb 90]

NICARAGUA

Monitored Nicaraguan voice and press media and press agency reports carry no Nicaraguan Government or media reaction to the summit.

PANAMA

In his "Lighting" column, Luis Ardines states that "I do believe that the antidrug summit in Colombia will yield very positive results. The main cocaine producers (Colombia, Bolivia, and Peru) and the United States, the main consumer, will have to reach an agreement that will give us hope that it is possible to erradicate the scourge of drugs, which is killing the youth of the continent." [Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 16 Feb 90 p 5]

PERU

Peruvian President Alan Garcia says in an interview after the summit: "I am satisfied with the conceptual statement of the declaration of Cartagena. I hope it becomes reality and that there is seriousness in the appropriation of resources to replace and limit drug trafficking."

When asked to summarize the summit's results, he says: "Frankly, and in a nutshell, it was positive. It created a multilateral atmosphere and we talked very candidly." In conclusion, he says that Colombians "must have confidence that Latin America, together with the United States, will confront the problem of drug trafficking." [Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0215 GMT 16 Feb 90]

President Garcia, during a visit to Santa Marta, Colombia to pay tribute to the liberator Simon Bolivar, says that the meeting in Cartagena "opens doors to multilateral negotiations instead of the bilateral negotiations that the powerful utilized to divide Latin America." [Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2349 GMT 16 Feb 90]

VENEZUELA

Venezuelan television carries a video report reviewing the summit and its results, emphasizing that it ended "with a positive result," namely "the joint declaration signed by the presidents" to "fight the drug trafficking trade together," and the U.S. pledge to "provide financial aid to replace the coca crops." The video report also features selected excerpts of the statements given by the four presidents. [Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 1600 GMT 16 Feb 90]

Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez met with former Argentine President Raul Alfonsin and former Colombian President Belisario Betancur in Caracas to analyze the Cartagena drug summit's results. Betancur emphasized that "the United States sells the chemical components needed to process" the cocaine, not to mention that it "is the most important drug consumer" in the world. [Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 2136 GMT 16 Feb 90]

Former Colombian President Belisario Betancur participated in a Latin American democratization symposium held in Caracas and termed the Cartagena drug summit "positive," particularly because "it resulted in specific conclusions" that "have filled our countries with hope." [Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2203 GMT 16 Feb 90]

Diego Garcia, president of the Andean Lawyers Commission, called the Cartagena summit "rhetorical and insufficient because it was centered on repression rather than structural changes," adding that the amount pledged by the United States for the antidrug struggle was "very little." Garcia added that "the idea is not for developed countries to give money" to Latin American nations, because the ideal thing would be to "establish different economic relations, reduce taxes, give preference" to Latin American products, and "define the quota system." [Paris AFP in Spanish 0509 GMT 17 Feb 90]

Bolivian Leader Comments on Summit in Cartagena

PA1602185290 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1735 GMT 16 Feb 90

["Exclusive" interview with Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora by Amilcar Hernandez on 15 February at the Cartagena convention center—recorded]

[Text] [Hernandez] How was the meeting between Presidents Bush and Alan Garcia?

[Paz] I think there were many superfluous words between them, but I believe that deep down, there was never any antagonism or distance between them.

[Hernadez] Can you give us an example of some superfluous words?

[Paz] Statements to and fro—especially before—not so much now, of course.

[Hernandez] How was lunch?

[Paz] Fine. The lady attending the guest house explained to me that the menu was typical of the Colombian Atlantic coast. We were served rice and coconut, which was very good; afterward, they served lobster tail. It was all very good.

[Hernandez] What did Presdient Bush have to say about security risks in Colombia?

[Paz] The truth is we were all at ease and no one spoke of any problems.

[Hernandez] What did you dislike about the summit?

[Paz] Perhaps we could have made some effort—of course, this may be too much to ask, as it is difficult for all the presidents to concur in their views considering the time available—to advance a bit more in certain operational aspects regarding what we agreed upon.

Cuba

Central Committee Holds Plenum 16 Feb

FL1702160090 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Feb 90

[GRANMA article: "Special Plenum of the Central Committee Decides To Call the Fourth Party Congress," from the "Haciendo Radio" program; read by announcer]

[Text] Under the Presidency of Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, Army General Raul Castro, and the other members of the Politburo and Secretariat of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC], a special plenary meeting of the PCC Central Committee was held yesterday in the Palace of the Revolution.

The members of the country's highest political leadership organization learned of the analysis conducted beforehand in the heart of the PCC Politburo on several fundamental tasks and problems that will be discussed by the Fourth PCC Congress. These factors were extensively debated, and statements and agreements were adopted in accordance with the work to be done prior to the congress and afterward.

The plenum agreed to describe as productive and promising the results of the rectification process in the sphere of economic and social development, as well as society's political awareness, which was reflected in the unprecedented ideological reaffirmation expressed on the day of tribute to fallen internationalists on 7 December 1989, the formidable mobilizations called by the youth, the recent inauguration of several construction projects—the product of the new workstyle—and more recently expressed by the heroic attitude of the Hermann crew against the Yankee aggression in international waters.

Based on these results, it was agreed that the conditions have been created to approach in practical and concrete terms the improvement of the country's political and institutional system. It was considered possible and necessary to begin analyzing and resolving immediate tasks, and later, in the long-run of the revolution, to resolve tasks in the area of the efforts made by the party, state, Communist youth, mass organizations, and other institutions, structures, and methods linked to the activities of each of these groups in the construction of socialism and the perfection of our system.

It was stressed that this step signifies the logical continuation and strengthening of the rectification process—the immediate antecedent of this was the rigorous self-criticism made at the Third PCC Congress,—which constitutes an uninterrupted and permanent task of the revolution. It was also strongly stressed that this is an objective born of our own internal dynamics and our own development needs, and we will pursue this based upon our own principles without ever having to respond to external pressures. We will proceed according to our own ideas, experiences, and decisions, especially regarding the application in our country of the principles of Marxism-Leninism, which have been adjusted to our own mentality, as well as to our own history and glorious revolutionary traditions of Marti and internationalism.

In this sense, it was justifiably recalled that the need for this phase in the perfection of our socialism was stressed in a GRANMA editorial on 24 September 1989 that expressed the positions of the revolution's leaders and said: Perhaps in the future, these acts that have shaken the country will be seen as the turning point toward a profound institutional, political, and moral improvement of the revolution. Let us make it clear. The events that have occurred involve several faults that exist, in one way or another, in all the institutions of the revolution. The editorial added: Serious self-reflection should make us realize that the improvement of society also implies the improvement of the party, and this is not just the subject, but the object of rectification.

It was also made evident during the meeting that the context and favorable national circumstances to carry out this purpose contrast with the adverse factors that prevail in the international sphere, which cannot go unrecognized. In analyzing these realities, in view of the situation of socialism on a world-wide level, the plenum reached the conclusion that if Cuba was able to save itself despite certain errors, thanks to our following a revolutionary policy, we should be aware that we can and should prevent ourselves from committing other errors. To do this, several premises exist in our society that have been essentially determined by the transfer and accumulation of foreign experiences that have been applied to Cuba's tradition, history, and idiosyncracies, although they may not be compatible with the principles that we defend in our political and state direction. Examples of this that were mentioned include the introduction of formalities into the internal life of the party and in its methods and styles of work which have nothing to do with the practice that has emerged from our revolutionary process. This has been reflected in the influx of income and in the mechanisms of assessment and elections that have lost their freshness and assumed bureaucratic forms, such as in the methods of organizing political and ideological work. All of this has been included, in one way or another, in the management of the rest of the country's social organizations and institutions.

In reference to the cadre policy, the plenum once again reaffirmed that it is not a matter of making changes in response to conditions and opinions and that, in essence, the problem goes far beyond the necessary movements and promotions and, above all, includes the affirmation of methods and concepts that will allow the permanent improvement of society, a process which has the party itself at the center.

Regarding this last aspect, the members of the Central Committee recognized some preliminary ideas that were analyzed by the Politburo in a preceding meeting. They discussed the concepts pertaining to the need to undertake an in-depth study of the content, methods, and structure of party organisms and organizations in such a way that they will give a more comprehensive and efficient response to its two large missions: economic growth and the solution of social development problems on the one hand, and the direction of political and ideological work with all the guiding and integrating responsibilities that it assumes on the other hand. The plenum felt that even though it appeared obvious, it should be made very clear that this critical analysis does not question principles and that they are talking about the perfection of a single Leninist party based on the norms of democratic centralization.

Some views on studying the structure and mechanisms of the people's government were also debated, above all to eradicate the formalities and improve its management methods. These ideas also extended to the work conducted by the National Assembly. The plenum also considered the importance of perfecting the operations of the Cuban Parliament [National Assembly of the People's Government, ANPP], as a representative of the will and interests of all the voters, in every forum where it should have an impact and promote the government's efforts, based on the point of view of the deputies, and on economic and social development priorities.

The work of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers, strongly fortified by the rectification process and essentially characterized by the highest attention and priority placed on everything related to production and services, was also analyzed. The plenum stressed the importance of making consistently equal efforts in giving attention, on the part of the government, to organizations that are not part of the material production sector, and to complete the subordination structure and system for all administrative units that rely on the highest government decisions.

The Central Committee plenum also assessed the work conducted by the revolution's mass organizations. In reference to this, they stressed strengthening the work of the trade unions in the heat of the process that led them up to the 16th workers' congress with important modifications in work methods and a favorable political advancement that should be continued and strengthened in the period that began with the congress.

Regarding the work of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution [CDR], their essential mission as a vehicle to organize and mobilize the masses in the defense of the revolution is today based on a new dimension. From this perspective, the plenum stressed that the work of the Federation of Cuban Women and the remaining CDR tasks in the heart of the community should be examined to determine where their efforts converge in the areas of vigilance and ideological combat, thus simplifying their work content and methods so that the population can rationally organize and apply its time, especially those people who have an active labor life.

It was made evident during the meeting that given the appropriate conditions that exist in the country, the improvement of the entire political system of the society could be put into practice, and the necessary attention could be given to this process, combining with it the decisive priority that specific economic and social development programs should continue to maintain. The Central Committee noted that the strengthening of political and ideological work, the elimination from its midst of all vestiges of [word indistinct] divorced from our reality, the promotion of a favorable climate for the development of creative thought and productive debate, the mobilization of the enormous transforming and integrating potential of our culture, and the subsequent application of the informational policy set forth by the party for our press will be momentous as organic parts of this effort.

It was especially stressed that, faithful to our experience, we will carry out these tasks as part of the rectification in permanent contact and with the participation of the masses, strengthening ties with collectives of workers, youths—particularly students—peasants, intellectuals, and all the people in mass organizations. The proposals of the Politburo were considered in reference to the stages in which this process will take place, as well as the necessary organizational measures to ensure that the work agreed upon is fulfilled.

The Central Committee plenum stressed the exceptionally historic occasion the revolution currently faces under the guidance of the full maturity, skill, and titanic guiding efforts of Comrade Fidel in view of the crisis of socialism, and the aggressive euphoria of the U.S. imperialists who delude themselves and dangerously deceive themselves by believing that the time is near for the final assault against the bastion that our fatherland has comprised for over 31 years. It was stated at the meeting that in view of this situation, we should continue to strengthen our defenses and prepare the people to resist and conquer any aggression in case of war and to also withstand the rigors and continue to develop in case the country has to confront a special period in peacetime. It was stressed that by making the necessary improvements with maturity and depth in our party and state leadership structures and methods, we will be making another important contribution to this preparation at a time when the advancement and durability of the Cuban revolution will not only determine our independence, the existence of our nationality, and the destiny of our just cause, but also the destinies of socialism in current times, the sovereignty of Latin America, and the hopes of the Third World.

After an in-depth analysis that included the exchange of views, deliberations, and discussions on the proposals presented by the Politburo, the special plenum of the PCC Central Committee reached the following agreements:

1. To hold the Fourth PCC Congress during the first half of 1991 on a date that is yet to be determined and to give

the PCC Politburo the responsibility of calling the congress together, which will be made public on 15 March on the 112th anniversary of the protest of Baragua;

2. To create the commission organizing the fourth congress which will be headed by the Politburo and Secretariat of the PCC Central Committee. The composition of the commission will also be made known on 15 March;

3. To approve as the main slogan of the fourth congress: The future of our fatherland will be an eternal Baragua;

4. To propose to the Council of State that an integral study be conducted on the experiences of the people's government to improve the operations of its organizations, and that the study include an analysis of the measures conducive to increasing efficiency in the National Assembly's management;

5. To accept the request of Comrades Roberto Veiga Menendez and Jose Ramirez Cruz to be relieved of their duties as full and alternate members of the PCC Politburo, respectively. The first case, which was opportunely studied, deals with a comrade who fulfilled his duties during an important stage in the leadership of the workers' movement up to the beginning of the rectification process, at which time it became evident that several changes were needed that would respond to the new requirements established for the trade unions.

The second case pertains to a comrade who made an invaluable contribution in organizing the peasants' movement and in guiding the movement in developing forms of socialist property until he was relieved of his duties at the head of the ANAP [National Association of Small Farmers] because of health reasons;

The Central Committee expressed its appreciation to both comrades and reaffirmed confidence in them, which they deserve for their political and moral integrity, which guarantees that they will remain members of the Central Committee;

6. To grant Comrade Fidel Castro's request and relieve Comrades Jaime Crombet Hernandez Vaquero and Lionel Soto Prieto of their duties as members of the PCC Secretariat. The two comrades will move on to the task of strengthening the work of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers;

To relieve of his duties as member of the PCC Secretariat, Jose Ramon Balaguer Cabrera, a comrade who enjoys well-earned prestige for his skills and modesty. The Politburo has placed its confidence in him to carry out an important and decisive mission in service abroad; [Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish at 1200 GMT on 17 February reports that Balaguer has been appointed Cuban ambassador to the USSR]

The responsibilities that these comrades had in Central Committee departments will be distributed among the rest of the members of the Secretariat;

7. To relieve Pedro Ross Leal and Sixto Batista Santana of their duties as members of the PCC Secretariat and promote them to alternate members of the Politburo;

8. To promote Comrades Carlos Lage Davila and Roberto Robaina Gonzalez to alternate members of the PCC Politburo;

9. To promote Comrade Brigade General Sergio Perez Lezcano to member of the PCC Central Committee and elect him member of the Secretariat and appoint him chief of the Military Department. Until the plenary meeting, Perez Lezcano was an alternate member of the PCC Central Committee.

During the course of the special plenary meeting, it was also reported that the Politburo agreed to create work groups to conduct studies and propose pertinent measures regarding improving the structure, content, methods, and work style of the party beginning with the Central Committee, as well as to analyze measures pertaining to increasing efficiency in the operations of the organs of the people's governments and the work of mass organizations, all of which is based on consultations with, and the active participation of the people. It was also reported that the Politburo decided to restructure the Economic Management and Planning System Commission with a group of cadres and specialists who will be selected from the party and government to dedicate themselves completely to this task.

The Central Committee expressed its firm conviction that the preparatory process for the Fourth PCC Congress, which will begin with the publication of the call for the congress on 15 March, will coordinate our people's enthusiasm, dedication, and intelligence in order to confront difficulties, continue advancing with the construction of socialism, and strengthen our fatherland's defensive capabilities.

[Dated] Havana City, 16 February 1990, 32d Year of the Revolution.

Commentary Reviews Cartagena Drug Summit Results

PA1702032690 Havana International Service in Spanish 0015 GMT 17 Feb 90

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] The South American presidents who recently attended the Cartagena drug summit managed to get the United States to admit, at least on paper, that the problem of the illegal drug trade has its basic roots in economics. The United States has always defended the thesis that drug trafficking would diminish if the drug cartels were stopped on South American territory, thus obviating the North Americans' role as the main consumers of hallucinogens in the world.

The presidents of Bolivia, Jaime Paz Zamora, Peru, Alan Garcia, and Colombia, Virgilio Barco, told their U.S. counterpart George Bush that, above all, the subcontinent requires that new alternatives be created for the development of Andean countries which produce coca, a product that is currently an important part of their national economies. Bush had to accept the reality with all that it implies, and he guaranteed that his government would soon conduct research to determine what Latin American exports could be sold on the U.S. market.

Truly speaking, if they want to eradicate the coca crops in Andean countries, it is essential to support an alternate economy, an option admitted to in the final communique issued at the Cartagena summit. This would undoubtedly be interpreted as a positive step. Latin America hopes that the words spoken by Bush in the Colombian city of Barranquilla will not be lost in the wind. He said that Washington will allocate $2 billion over five years to fight drugs and exchange the coca crops for other products in Bolivia, Peru, and Colombia.

In addition to making a pledge, President Bush must bear in mind that a step in this direction is the least his country can do to help end the illegal flow of drugs, given that the U.S. authorities allow the largest consumption of drugs in the world to occur within their own territory. No one should forget that drug trafficking is not the only problem in Latin America, and that economic aid is essential to fight this and other scourges.

In fact, the Latin American foreign debt, calculated at more than $400 billion, and the extreme poverty prevailing on the continent, which affects 100 million of its 400 million inhabitants, both represent equally the dramatic aspects which afflict the region. The multilateral participation in the antidrug struggle and the recognition that drug trafficking is an economic problem should serve as a positive foundation for examining possible solutions from a better angle. Furthermore, rich countries can certainly offer a disinterested contribution, always bearing in mind the need to respect the sovereignty of all the nations in the zone.

Talks With Angola on Troop Withdrawal Begin

FL1902193290 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Cuba and Angola began official talks today in Luanda that will focus on the withdrawal of Cuban troops and the continuation of civilian cooperation in various fields. Jorge Risquet Valdes, member of the Politburo and the Secretariat of the Communist Party of Cuba, who heads the Cuban delegation, said that the entire international community is watching to see how the problem of the suspension of the schedule for Cuban troop withdrawal from Angola will be resolved. He added that the aspects to be discussed today and tomorrow also include an exchange of information on the current situation in the two nations.

Angola and Cuba decided to temporarily suspend the return of our internationalists because of the death of four of them during an armed attack by UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] on 21 January. Also, in August 1989 UNITA elements killed six other Cuban soldiers. Given these events, Cuba warned that the resumption of the withdrawal of our troops would take place when the United States and UNITA gave full guarantees that these attacks would not be repeated.

Likewise, Pedro de Castro Van Dunem, foreign minister and member of the MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola]—Labor Party Politburo, who heads the Angolan delegation to the talks which began today, stressed the importance of examining together the current status of compliance with the New York agreements for peace in southwest Africa. He also referred to Angola's interest in continuing to benefit from Cuba's experience and success in economic and social development.

The meeting will continue until tomorrow, and when it is over a communique will be issued and a news conference will be held.

Commentary Stresses Unity Against U.S.

PA1602151090 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Commentary by Roberto Morejon]

[Text] The strengthening of Cuban unity seems to be the most appropriate prescription chosen by the island's government to tackle the increasing U.S. aggression. Constant mobilizations, marches, and gigantic rallies have taken place throughout Cuba in the past few weeks at the same time that various U.S. provocations, ranging from an attack against a vessel carrying a Cuban crew to the announcement of the upcoming opening of a subversive television channel, were also taking place.

A greater stress on the regrouping of forces, a process that has never been given up in 30 years of revolution, is becoming part of the government's strategy to face the threats of foreign aggression and the economic consequences of conflicts in East Europe.

One of the most uncertain and troublesome periods in the world is being experienced at this time, because of the retrogression from real socialism in East Europe and the U.S. display of force in Panama. For decades, Cuba's economic plans were based on the existence of a socialist bloc in the old continent, with which Cuba reached accords and established a close relationship.

The profound political changes in East Europe, which have destroyed the socialist community, have influenced its ties with Cuba in the economic and political areas. The Cuban Government has said that it respects the decision of these countries, even admitting the erruption of capitalist ideas. However, Havana reserves the right to chose the path it deems more advisable for its interests.

That path is the reaffirmation of socialism. This decision has been confirmed in the past few months by Communist Party leaders and the government, and has been supported by the entire population. In this regard, the reinforcement of the unity of the citizens and constant public explanations on current and foreseeable difficulties are deemed to be very important.

A fragmented society invites the infiltration of capitalist ideas. This possibility is rejected by the Cuban Government and a majority of the Cuban people.

Unofficial Sources Foresee Fuel Shortages

FL1702002390 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2223 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Report by Jose Buendia]

[Text] Havana, 16 Feb (NOTIMEX)—Cuba's economy is facing the threat that deliveries of oil from the USSR will be delayed or reduced. It is estimated that the USSR supplies Cuba with 13 million tons of oil per year. Sources in the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba have said that the USSR or Eastern Europe have not officially said they will stop trading with Cuba, but they have not acknowledged that there are delays in the shipments either, and supplies are no longer guaranteed.

Unofficial reports have indicated that state enterprises and organizations could experience cuts in their fuel allocations at any time, since fuel rationing is anticipated to cope with the difficult times ahead for Cuba. Cuban authorities trust that Soviet leader Mikhail Gorvbachev will keep his pledge to support Cuba, but it is feared that the USSR's internal problems and its economic decentralization will affect the punctual delivery of energy supplies.

Cuban President Fidel Castro recently announced that the country should be prepared to face a special period in peacetime; according to unofficial reports this will include rationing and conservation of energy and fuel. Cuba has an incipient oil industry that is not enough to handle the demands of a developing economy that depends on the USSR for over 90 percent of its fuel supply. Possible gasoline rationing and shortages could also have social effects on the public transportation system. The shortage of buses and the bad condition these are in cause great irritation among the populace.

Moreover, a reduction in oil deliveries would cause a drop in Cuba's low fresh hard currency funds, since it would have to use dollars or convertible currencies to import oil from producer countries like Mexico or Venezuela. In addition, problems with oil deliveries from the USSR would cause a drop in the country's hard currency receipts because, according to unofficial figures, almost one third of the fuel Cuba receives is later resold on the international oil market to obtain fresh hard currency.

The delay in the deliveries from the USSR has already had its first effects with the increase in the price of bread and eggs, as well as rationing of these products in the provinces because of the delayed arrival in Cuba of the wheat shipment it receives annually from its traditional ally.

The energy conservation that Cuba has developed in the 32 years of U.S. economic blockade may help this nation endure the problems a fuel shortage would cause, but they are not enough to avoid stagnation in an economy that belongs to the Third World, as officials of the Central Commmittee of the Communist Party of Cuba have stated.

U.S. Amphibious Assault Ship Near Guantanamo

FL2002120590 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1014 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] The United States continues to create tension in the Caribbean. A few hours ago the LHA 4 Nassau, a U.S. amphibious assault ship, was near Guantanamo Bay. This ship can accomodate a crew of 1,800 men. The reason for the ship's presence in the area is not known.

UK Parliamentary Delegation Meets With Aguirre

FL2002020390 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] A parliamentary delegation from Great Britain, presided over by Mr. Michael Marshall, was received by Severo Aguirre del Cristo, acting president of the National Assembly.

The British delegation is comprised of deputies that belong to the Labor and Conservative parties. During the meeting, which was also attended by deputy Julio Garcia Oliveras, president of the Cuban Chamber of commerce, the guests received a briefing on the genesis of the revolution and the country's principle development objectives. In the dialogue between the Cuban and British parliamentarians, the two sides agreed that it would be beneficial to expand our economic relations and, in this regard, find new forms of cooperation.

Official Asserts Rights at UN Meeting

FL1302124890 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] At the UN Human Rights Commission meeting in Geneva, Cuban Foreign Vice Minister Raul Roa Kouri has denounced the U.S. invasion of Panama, the merchant ship attack perpetrated by the United States, and Washington's financing of mercenary bands in Nicaragua and Angola. Analyzing the seventh and eighth items of the agenda regarding the right of development, Roa Kouri asserted that our power is the power of the people, and reiterated that Cuba refuses to give up its right to be socialist, communist, and rule our fatherland and our destiny.

Vice Presidents, Envoy to USSR Appointed

FL1702182290 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1400 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] The Council of State of the Republic of Cuba has approved the appointments of Comrades Jaime Crombet Hernandez Vaquero and Lionel Soto Prieto as vice presidents of the Council of Ministers.

The Council of State has also approved the appointment of Jose Ramon Balaguer Cabrera as Cuban ambassador to the USSR. Balaguer Cabrera is replacing Comrade Julio Camacho Aguilera who concluded his duties as ambassador to the Soviet Union.

Sixto Batista Appointed CDR Coordinator

FL1702182990 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1400 GMt 17 Feb 90

[Excerpt] In a meeting presided over by Jose Ramon Machado Ventura, member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] and secretary of the PCC Central Committee, the national directorate of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution [CDR] has agreed to approve Comrade Armando Acosta Cordero's request to be relieved of his duties. Division General Sixto Batista Santana, alternate member of the PCC Politburo, was elected to replace Acosta Cordero as national coordinator of the CDR. [passage omitted]

Official Explains Limits on Nonrationed Goods

FL1602143690 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Interview with Domestic Trade Vice Minister Rigoberto Fernandez by Hilda Prieto; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Fernandez] Instructions limiting the sale of nonrationed goods were issued to protect our country's consumers. We are updating them to prevent some people from placing the rest of the population, either consciously or unconsciously, in a position of disadvantage by reselling or speculating in such goods. This means that provinces, enterprises, and management can decide to limit the amounts of nonrationed goods.

For example, why does a consumer go to a place where milk is sold and buy an entire box of cream cheese? The management can limit the sale to four or five cream cheese units per person according to the supplies it has. This also applies to other goods. An example would be ballpoint pen refills. They come in packages of 25 and 10 units. If you want to buy ballpoint pen refills, the management can limit the product to five refills per person instead of selling five refill packages that contain 100 units. If this is done, less people can get the products they need.

[Prieto] Are there any plans to reduce the quota of any rationed goods?

[Fernandez] There is no doubt that all our people know that we are going through a difficult economic situation and imported supplies are limited. However, at this point, the quota for foodstuffs is not going to be reduced. You can be sure that when this becomes necessary, our government will inform the population on a timely manner, as was just done a few days ago with bread because of the situation with flour and eggs. The population will always be informed if there is a need to reduce the quota of any product. There is no doubt that our revolution and government are making extraordinary efforts to maintain the quota of basic foodstuffs our population should receive.

Industry Officials Analyze Production Problems

FL1702025790 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] Directors of enterprises under the Ministry of Basic Industry [MINBAS] evaluated today in Havana the results of last year's work and specified the objectives for this year. According to its report, the MINBAS ended 1989 with an increase in the value of its commercial production; 33 products set historic production records and only 12 decreased. The reductions were caused by lack of supplies, transportation, and raw materials, as well as fluctuation in the labor force and equipment breakdowns.

The major problems the MINBAS must confront this year in production and services were also analyzed. A priority issue at the meeting of MINBAS directors was checking the measures that the ministry will adopt in the special peacetime period, as well as the support that the ministry must give to the country's major work objectives this year.

In closing the meeting, Pedro Miret, member of the Central Committee Politburo, referred to the immediate results this sector contributes to the country's economy. In this respect he cited the example of the sugar harvest, a sector that must be prioritized based on current climatic conditions. He also stressed support for the food plans, basically the production of fertilizers for agriculture. He reiterated once more that we must recover everything that can be used by our economy.

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

Caricom Ministers to Discuss Haiti, Bananas

FL1902170590 Bridgetown CANA in English 2108 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Feb 17, CANA—Caribbean Community foreign ministers will discuss a row with the Dominican Republic and the troubled political situation in Haiti during meetings in New York and St. Lucia shortly, according to Trinidad and Tobago's Foreign Minister, Sahadeo Basdeo. Basdeo told Canaradio, the radio service of the CARIBBEAN NEWS AGENCY, that the foreign ministers will be in

New York next week to attend a special United Nations session on drugs, but will also be discussing other pressing issues.

"They will discuss the present situation in Haiti to see whether or not the Caribbean countries should continue to provide the necessary assistance promised by the foreign ministerial report with respect to the granting of support and assistance to lay the elections infrastructure in time for April," Basdeo reported. He said the region needed to monitor "that situation to see whether or not it is indeed wise and timely to execute our commitment."

The comments came after the Haitian authorities imposed a crackdown on the press and its political opponents. The state of siege has been lifted.

Basdeo said too the ministers are expected "to hear from the Dominican Republic this week as to whether or not they are going to continue the shipping of bananas to Europe despite the signing of the Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) and despite our common understanding..."

"We will have to wait and see what emerges with respect to that matter next week, but I can tell you a meeting is due to be held on February 28, in St. Lucia...where we will discuss the situation..."

"In addition we hope to take a decision to meet with the Dominican Republic shortly thereafter to see whether or not we could not resolve what appears to be...an impasse over this matter."

Caribbean Community banana-producers have accused the Dominican Republic of turning its back on a promise not to export bananas to Europe in exchange for their support in gaining access to the Lome Trade and Aid Convention linking Europe and developing countries. Basdeo said the controversy surrounding the banana issue must be resolved "before we get to Fiji in the last week of March to attend the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP)-European Community Council of Ministers meeting where the issue will again be raised."

Haiti

Prosper Avril Discusses Electoral Situation

FL1602190090 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1200 GMT 15 Feb 90

["Recent" interview with President Lieutenant General Prosper Avril by Frantz Israel; date and place not given—recorded; Avril responses in French]

[Text] [Israel] Is Haiti something out of a nightmare, considering everything that has happened here lately?

[Avril] The nightmare people talk about was a nightmare on the international level. I mean, the 20 January measures had negative effects on the international level. For example, the meeting of the mixed Haitian-French Commission that was to be held on 22 January was postponed. This is a negative effect, in the sense that we were going to relaunch French-Haitian cooperation on new, very positive, foundations. We lost the opportunity. I knew we were going to lose it, but I think it was important for the executive to make a choice. The alternatives were either to allow the nation to slide into the abyss or to lose certain advantages at the level of foreign assistance. We preferred to confront that possibility, rather than to let our country slide in the direction of the abyss. It is at that level that the nightmare that people talk about is situated—for 20-30 January, the Haitian people never stopped having (?a lot of) fun, never stopped going about their business. The public marketplaces were full of people. Stores were open. Soccer matches took place. Everything was going fine. There were pre-Carnival activities in the streets on Sundays.

We know that if we had not taken those measures, we might have perhaps not been able to control the reaction of the troops, who saw themselves as being targeted by extremists who were assassinating officers, who (?were murdering) soldiers in the streets. Things had reached a high point.

Now, we must say, to these measures' credit, that: Hey, listen: Since 20 January, there has not been a single report of a case of insecurity, either in the streets, or someone's house—cases of armed robbery and things like that. Up to now, Port-au-Prince has remained calm, calmer than ever. I hope these measures will have permitted us to solve the problem of insecurity once and for all. Because this is a problem that was endorsed by many people who have now learned the lesson and are not going to continue to do it.

I was going to say that, regarding the guarantee for the elections, I am happy that Bazin has given in to the evidence that we have given sufficient guarantees—and those guarantees are still here, but I do not ever want (?people) to forget that elections are the matter of the Permanent Electoral Council [CEP], which by law is supposed to organize elections in a fully independent manner.

Now, our job is to create the atmosphere. We did right in taking those measures of 20 January, because since 20 January, the atmosphere is set fair [au beau fixe] in Haiti.

You have probably heard that I was in Cite Soleil the day before yesterday, to see how the crowd had taken the measures. Well, the crowd was happy. Indeed, the Haitian population is happy with these measures. We have, however, problems on the international level, for foreigners do not have all the data on Haitian problems.

[Israel] Right, Mr. President. We must thank you. I remember that as these events unfolded, we protested to your government the holding of Mrs. Hubert de Ronceray in Haiti. In an interview he gave us earlier, Dr. De

Ronceray spoke of the brutality to which he was subjected at the police station. Do you think that after this brutality he has enough confidence to come back to Haiti?

[Avril] I said clearly that after the state of siege was lifted, the measures were lifted, we have returned to the status quo ante. Mrs. Ronceray has never made any statements to create any kind of subversion in Haiti. Thus, it never even occurred to us to mention her name. She is, however, free to travel, to circulate, to go see her husband, to go in and out of Haiti. We have placed no restrictions on the movement of citizens in Haiti.

Since the state of siege has been lifted, we have attained our objective—which was to return calm to the country, to save the country from anarchy. We succeeded. Now, as I said during the news conference, we want everyone to know that they are now going to enter a rule of law in Haiti. When one does things that are against the law, one will be punished regardless of position.

You surely know that here in Haiti, we have even arrested people with heavy-caliber weapons at their homes, and there were still protests to demand the release of such people. Last year we arrested people for setting off bombs during Carnival. There were so many protests that the judiciary had to release the people.

I think an end must be put to all that. The country must enter a rule of law. That is the only way we will make it to elections.

[Israel] Right, Mr. President. Thank you. During the state of siege, your government imposed, however, very strict limits on the exercise of the journalistic profession, interrupting all press activities in Haiti. Can you convince me, Mr. President, that I am now free? For as you know, the [words indistinct] also applies to me and to everyone.

[Avril] Well, concerning the journalists, we did not interrupt all press activities in Haiti. A state of siege was decreed. This means certain things that all intellectuals, all practicing members of the press, are supposed to know about. For example....[changes thought] All right, because you live in the United States, I can say this to you. In the United States, when, for example, the Panama thing occurred, well, I was not.... [changes thought] We get American channels here. We never saw, however, a single picture of Panama until the situation was beginning to normalize. Surely you do not think there were no journalists in Panama? The journalists, or the radio stations, knew that they had to give the U.S. Government a (?period of) calm, so it could try to calm the problem, solve the problem. Now that is a responsible press. I do not think they received orders from the U.S. Government not to broadcast items. I stayed, however, there in front of my television set, frustrated, for I was unable to see....[rephrases] I wanted to see, for example, how the bombarded barracks looked. I never saw it, though. I do not think that to this very moment I have seen a picture. Whether the press did not think it worth publishing, or whether the press decided not to publish, I do not know. I have never seen, for example, what happened during all the operations there. So, that is what we call a responsible press.

We announced a state of siege. The next morning, there was....[changes thought] One radio station asked the Haitian people to go out and protest the state of siege. Now, what does it mean, when a decree is already out, and troops have already received instructions regarding the state of siege, and now you ask the population to take to the streets? You must be seeking carnage.

Of course, the masses were not (?affected) [interesse] by this matter, so they did not obey. The Ministry of Information, however, had to shoulder its responsibilities and remind the press of the terms of the law.

What did this communique say: First, to verify, before broadcasting anything, that it is true—the truth of, veracity of, all local information. There, I think that....[changes thought] You are not being told not to disseminate. You are told to verify the exactness of the information. For, as you know, in Haiti, ever since 7 February [1986], when someone wants to have your house looted, well, there are two or three radio stations that say: Mr. or Mrs. So-and-So's house is being looted. Then the crowd goes there and really does loot it. This is what we went after 7 February. Now, you have to verify the exactness of the information. That is what we asked them to do.

Then there were the provincial correspondents, who stay in the provinces and send news reports directly over the air. As these are people who have no journalistic training—these are just poor people they hire to send information—well, the Ministry of Information asked the radio stations to, before broadcasting the reports from their correspondents.... [changes thought] It would be a better idea to record them and listen to them before putting them on the air, to be sure they did not report any false information!

What was the third request? It was to refrain from relaying and rebroadcasting reports on Haiti coming from stations broadcasting from outside the national territory because outside the national territory, the stations were not under martial law and could broadcast things subversive (?to the) public order. Thus, we asked them to control that.

Last, we asked them to not broadcast anything....[rephrases] to not broadcast news reports, or statements, or stands taken that could incite agitation. I mean, everything could be made public, as long as it would not incite agitation. That was the tenor of that communique we are talking about.

All that is already history, however, for upon the lifting of the state of siege, all the big freedoms [laughs] are resumed. OK? They are fully in effect now. Thus, my dear Frantz, you may send your reports in completely freely now, for the state of siege has been lifted, the country is calm, and we can now function normally.

Party Concerned Over Electoral Bureau Formation

FL1902140690 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 0950 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Excerpt] More on elections: The Executive Committee of the Democratic Movement for the Liberation of Haiti/Democratic Revolutionary Party of Haiti again expresses concern—this time in connection with the setting in place of the Permanent Electoral Council [CEP] personnel two months from the first elections. Stressing in a press release that the procedure for forming the Departmental Electoral Bureaus has not been uniform for all nine departments and has given rise to much criticism, the party suggests to the CEP that it first establish a clear, uniform procedure for appointing the members of the Communal Electoral Offices and the Local Electoral Offices. The public should be informed as to what this procedure consists of. Second, profiles of the central office positions to be filled should be determined, and the way and the conditions under which appointments are made should be defined. [passage omitted]

Conacom Urges CEP To Halt Election Process

FL1902134890 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 0950 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Text] [Announcer] Conacom, or National Congress of Democratic Movements [name as heard], which is headed by Professor Victor Benoit, has asked the Electoral Council [CEP] to temporarily stop the electoral process. Conacom and Dejean Belizaire's National Patriotic Movement of 28 November [MNP-28], which is a member of the National Alliance for Democracy and Progress [ANDP], denounce irregularities in the setting up of the electoral office. Our reporter Rothschild Francois Jr. will explain.

[Francois] It is not possible to hold elections in the current climate. This is Conacom's diagnosis. In a letter addressed to the CEP, Conacom points out a number of elements that Conacom says form the background of a political juncture that is inappropriate for holding democratic elections at present.

For the edification of the CEP's nine members, Conacom lists certain indications of this: First, the political insecurity maintained by the different violations of the Constitution by General Avril's government, the arbitrary arrests, the torture of militants and leaders of popular organizations and political leaders, the expulsion of political figures, and the obstruction of freedom of the press; second, General Avril's maneuvers aimed at controlling the CEP's electoral machine by infiltrating into the Departmental Electoral Offices [BED] former servants of the Duvalier and Namphy regimes—former prefects, mayors, members of Conajec [National Council for Jean-Claudist Action; the vehicle for Jean-Claude Duvalier's political ideas], etc.; third, the population's and political class' lack of confidence in the management of the government; fourth, the forced absence of expelled political leaders, the sabotage of the headquarters of certain political parties, and the persecution of members of political parties and popular organizations in the communal sections.

To illustrate this, Conacom points out that last 20 January, its headquarters was sacked and 30 Conacom members were arbitrarily tortured, imprisoned, and then released. One of them was expelled, and his vehicle is to this day illegally in the hands of the police. Furthermore, in Limbe and Plaisance Communes and along Haiti's southern coast, several Conacom members are still being harassed by the local authorities, who claim they are complying with instructions received from their hierarchical superiors in Port-au-Prince: to prevent political parties from operating in the provinces.

Fifth, Conacom points out that it is impossible for parties frowned upon by the government to campaign in the provinces, particularly in the rural areas; and, sixth, Conacom points out the presence in the CEP's electoral litigation department of an amoral individual who after having served Duvalier was a legal adviser on the 17 January CEP headed by Mr. Jean Gilbert.

In its letter to the CEP Conacom says, furthermore, that to hold elections under such conditions, where the rules of the democratic game are distorted, is to:

A. Sanction a coup d'etat through the ballot box.

B. Help to stab the Haitian people in the back.

C. Lose your independence by objectively making yourselves accomplices to the enemies of democracy.

To avoid such catastrophic and regrettable action, Conacom invites the CEP to make a choice, at this difficult moment, between the Haitian people and the interests of a small group that wants to hold on to power at any price through repression, corruption, and the infiltration of the electoral machine to manipulate the results of the election in its favor.

In the current juncture on the Haitian political scene, you can organize only an election masquerade, as was the case on 17 January 1988. Thus, the political crisis will merely become worse. The weak government issuing from such hollow [bidon] elections will not have popular support and sufficient national credibility to attack the nation's big problems.

Conacom stresses: Gentlemen of the CEP, you are at a crossroads, and you must make a choice. Either you agree to go down in history with bowed heads, as people submissive to the enemies of democracy; or you shoulder your patriotic responsibilities by:

A. Announcing the BED's and any other structures for holding elections formed on the basis of information collected under dubious conditions, without the participation of the population, during the period the state of siege was in effect and

B. Temporarily blocking all pre-election activities while waiting for a climate propitious for holding democratic elections to exist.

At this time of crisis—a time when, in the face of an increasingly aware nation, all masks are dropping—it is important for every official invested with government authority to act in accordance with his knowledge of history, his political sense, and, above all, his conscience.

In this letter, Conacom declares it is shouldering its responsibility before history to ask the CEP to stop right there, because [Francois switches to Creole] the pencil of history has no eraser.

[Francois switches back to French] Also, less than 24 hours after the CEP's answer to the ANDP, one of the ANDP's members, the MNP-28, has reacted. In a response to the CEP's response to ANDP made public yesterday, MNP-28 says it thinks there are no serious foundations whatsoever for the CEP's refusal to modify the calendar. Greatly to the contrary, the CEP's attitude is because of laxness.

The MNP-28 asks the CEP to resume its querying of the population, to take into account the demands of serious political parties and the Haitian people in general and to change the BED personnel deemed dubious. [sentence as heard]

We remind listeners that the ANDP had asked that the electoral calendar be changed. Its three member-parties wanted legislative and presidential elections to be held simultaneously next July. However, the CEP responded negatively to their proposal.

Soleil Continues To Poll Parties on Elections

FL1602164790 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1000 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Excerpts] On the eve of general elections that are slated to be held in three steps—which will result in a civilian government at the beginning of next year—it looks as if politically, the nation is heading for an impasse. A new imbalance has set in since the 20 January, when the state of siege was declared. [passage omitted]

Despite the fact that this year has been decreed a special election year for Haiti, the reality of elections still appears to be far away. Many conditions remain to be met before elections are realized. [passage omitted]

As the business of elections is linked to the crisis of confidence among the population, different groups in society view elections and participation differently.

Out of six political parties we have interviewed on this matter, one says it is going to elections; three say they will absolutely not go to elections under the current government; and the remaining two say that before they go to elections, the conditions they have set must be satisfied. [figures as heard] This creates a climate of confusion and gives rise to much doubt.

Continuing this poll, we have today met with several other, different sectors of the society. [passage omitted]

A human rights official, Jean-Jacques Honorat of the Haitian Center for the Defense of Public Freedoms [Chadel], says elections are the only way to solve the matter of a transfer of power. But are the conditions appropriate? He has many doubts concerning the confidence the candidates and voters have in the country's leaders and the members of the Permanent Electoral Council [CEP]—confidence that they should have.

[Begin Honorat recording, in French] Elections simply must be possible in Haiti, for there is no other way to settle the matter of how to transfer power. There are only two ways to change the government—through armed struggle or elections. We must use the electoral process.

Now, have the conditions permitting participation by the voters in an electoral process been met? The electoral process is a matter of confidence. Does this confidence exist? Does the Haitian electorate currently trust the political power—that is, the government—and the electoral power—that is, the CEP? —for these two powers must work together to enable elections to be realized. That is what you would have to look into. I myself do not know. If you want my personal opinion: I doubt it. I cannot help but doubt it. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Jean Guzman, a political leader and an official of the Haitian Revolution Party said the party he leads is not going to participate in elections. Guzman says his opinion is shared by the parties that are members of the National Assemblage.

[Begin Guzman recording] No, we are not into elections at all. Not at all. In any case, the party is a member of the National Assemblage; and that is the objective of all the parties and organizations that are members of the National Assemblage. We are not into elections. Elections are not possible. We are not going to send the Haitian people out to be slaughtered. [end recording]

Rockefeller Guerre, head of the Union of Democratic Patriots, says his party is not going to elections because the government does not really want to hold elections. Guerre says that the CEP is not willing to hold honest elections. He asks for another government, so that elections can be held. [passage omitted]

For their part, the union federations that defend the Haitian working class and peasants are not yet willing to make statements on the holding of elections in Haiti. We have learned, however, from a source very close to one of these union federations that five union federations have sat down together and are preparing a document clearly clarifying their position on elections. The five union federations preparing this document are: the Confederation of Haitian Workers, the Federation of Workers Trade Unions, the Autonomous Organization of Haitian Workers, the General and Independent Organization of Haitian Workers, and the National Confederation of Haitian Instructors.

We also solicited the Haitian Army's opinion on the holding of elections. On 14 February we interviewed General Herard Abraham, who heads the Haitian Army.

Gen. Abraham said that the Haitian Army wants elections to be held and is working to provide security for both the voters and participating candidates. The general thinks a consensus must be reached regarding the conditions set by certain people for proper participation in the coming elections. If not, (?there will be) a dictatorship. There must be a meeting on that matter.

Regarding the statement to the effect that General Avril must step down for there to be properly held elections in Haiti, Gen. Abraham said that question was not (?up) to him (?to answer), for he is responsible for the Haitian Army. He is not a part of the executive branch of the government. We are not able, however, to have you listen directly to Gen. Abraham, because he would not allow us to tape him. [passage omitted]

Jamaica

Candidates Register for Local Government Elections

FL1902163590 Bridgetown CANA in English
1511 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Feb 17, CANA—The leftist Workers Party of Jamaica says it won't be contesting next month's local government elections. Officials said it was because the party was in the process of restructuring itself.

More than 380 candidates including at least six independents, will contest all 187 divisions in the poll set for March 6. Friday, nomination day, was incident free as candidates from both the Ruling People's National Party (PNP) and the opposition Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) handed in their papers at nomination centres.

The last local government election, in 1986, was won by the PNP.

According to the electoral office, members of the security forces - the police and army - will vote on March 3 to free them for duty on March 6.

Both political parties have fielded several new candidates.

Also, Prime Minister Michael Manley and opposition leader Edward Seaga have predicted a low voter turn out at the polls based on the fact that the elections are coming so closely behind the February 1989 general elections and that most Jamaicans are more concerned with improving their economic problems. Seaga said that given the low morale in the country and the growing disillusionment with the PNP, his party is expected to do well at the polls.

This year's election is expected to cost some 5 million Jamaican dollars, one million more than the 1986 local government elections.

El Salvador

Cristiani Comments on Aid, Dialogue With FMLN

PA1802201190 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1844 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] San Salvador, 18 Feb (DPA)—President Alfredo Cristiani today said the government is awaiting a reply from the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) regarding a possible resumption of the dialogue.

Cristiani held a news conference at the Comalapa airport this morning prior to traveling to Taiwan on a tour, which, he said, will last until 3 March.

Cristiani disclosed that as part of his mediation efforts, the UN secretary general has twice sent his personal delegate, Alvaro de Soto, who has been told that the Salvadoran Government demands the FMLN halt its hostilities and sabotage activity aimed at disrupting national commerce.

"We know," President Cristiani said, "that the FMLN has asked for two weeks to study and respond to our latest proposal."

The president referred to an attack last night and early this morning on an electric power substation in northwestern San Salvador, describing it as "a publicity ploy to impress the UN secretary general."

"We are insisting on a halt to hostilities" because of such actions, which "constitute only terrorism and do not represent a military threat," the president said.

The president denied that the government is looking for economic aid in other regions because of the suspension of FRG aid and because of the possibility of U.S. aid cuts.

"This visit to Taiwan had been scheduled since before the guerrilla offensive in November. I received the invitation from the Taiwan Government when I took office in June," Cristiani said.

He added that the objective of the visit is to strengthen relations and trade with a friendly government as well as to express thanks for the technical assistance Taiwan has provided.

Regarding aid from the FRG, he said "efforts are being made to reestablish it. The FRG Government is conditioning its aid on respect for human rights and the development of the democratic process in the country."

Referring to U.S. aid, the Salvadoran president said he is not aware that official decisions or plans exist. Instead, there are personal positions of congressmen or special-interest groups, but this must be fully discussed at the time of the vote for the next fiscal year, which in the United States begins in October.

The president also defended the recent economic measures, which have led to protests against the general increase in prices of staples. He said these measures were necessary for the country's economy, which was affected last year, first, by the overall cuts in U.S. aid to the region, a reduction of $55 million for El Salvador; second, by the drop in international coffee prices, which caused $150 million in losses for El Salvador; and third, by the damage from the guerrilla offensive in November.

Before leaving on his trip and in response to reporter's questions, President Cristiani also defended the Armed Forces, stating that the actions in which they have been involved recently have not weakened them and, on the contrary, have strengthened the Armed Forces because errors have been admitted and those responsible are being prosecuted, such as in the cases of the Jesuits and the civilians who were killed on 11 February in Chalatenango.

Cristiani said that in the latter case there has been no pressure and that from the moment that there was news about the tragedy, the commission that investigates criminal acts was ordered to undertake the appropriate investigation to determine the cause of the tragedy. He said it concluded that the tragedy was caused by a helicopter rocket, but there was no bombing, although the civilians were victims of war actions.

Cristiani criticized the FMLN for waging battles in populated areas because this endangers civilians.

In conclusion, Cristiani said the FMLN will never give up its attempts to weaken or divide the Armed Forces, but he added that the Armed Forces are becoming more professional every day.

Cristiani Swears In New Interior Minister

PA1702185590 Paris AFP in Spanish 1643 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] San Salvador, 17 Feb (AFP)—President Alfredo Cristiani today swore in retired Colonel Juan Martinez Varela as his new interior minister, thus beginning the reorganization of his cabinet.

A Government House report indicated that Cristiani appointed Jorge Menendez as deputy interior minister to replace retired Colonel Carlos Humberto Figueroa, who will now be president of the Autonomous Executive Port Commission.

Vice President Francisco Merino had been interior minister and Col. Martinez Varela had been minister of the Presidency.

The Cabinet changes come nine months after the government of the rightist Nationalist Republican Alliance headed by Cristiani took office.

Changes in other ministries, including the Foreign Ministry, are expected soon.

Cristiani Departs for Official Visit to Taiwan

PA1802170890 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1545 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] San Salvador, 18 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—President Alfredo Cristiani today traveled to Taiwan on an official visit, primarily to discuss economic topics.

Official sources said Cristiani will seek economic and technical aid from Taiwan and will submit several development projects to request funding from Taiwan.

Cristiani, who will return to El Salvador in 10 days, traveled with Economy Minister Arturo Zablah, Planning Minister Mirna Lievano de Marques, Defense Minister Humberto Larios, and Foreign Minister Manuel Pacas.

Army Admits Rocket Fire Killed Repatriates

PA1702045090 Paris AFP in Spanish 0355 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] San Jose, 16 Feb (AFP)—The Salvadoran Army High Command admitted today that a military helicopter fired a rocket on 11 February and killed five civilians and wounded 14 others in the community of Corral de Piedras, which is inhabited by repatriates.

The Armed Forces said that "arrangements will be made to pay indemnities to the relatives of those who died in the fighting between Army troops and the FMLN (Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front)," said an official communique released tonight. In the communique the Armed Forces admit to responsibility for these events.

Those killed were four children and an adult, who were identified as Anabel Beatriz Lopez, 1; Blanca Lidia Guardado, 2; Estela Isabel Lopez, 9; Jose Dolores Serrano, 11; and Jose Anibal Guardado, 28.

The deaths occurred in Sancipio Canton its responsibility in the case, but President Alfredo Cristiani's government promised to investigate the killing and sent the Commission on Criminal Activities [Comision de Hechos Delictivos], which is made up largely of civilians, to Corral de Piedras [sentence as received].

The official communique released by the Armed Forces Press Committee (Coprefa) adds that paying the families—the amount of which has not been specified—would occur "after the commission's inquiry."

According to the pilot's report, which was issued upon the commission's request, it can be surmised that "the cause of the civilians' death was the explosion of rockets fired by a POA (a helicopter that went to the place upon request of (an) infantry unit."

The statement adds that "explosive material consisting of potassium chlorate, aluminum powder, and TNT as well as hand grenades of the type used by the terrorist groups" were found around the homes.

Corral de Piedras, the repatriates' settlement, was established in October 1989 after some 500 Salvadorans returned from the Mesa Grande refugee camp in Honduras.

The residents charged that grain crops were burned and cattle were killed during the military operation on February 11.

On 14 February, a delegation of U.S. congressmen visited Corral de Piedras and gathered evidence of the rockets fired at the settlement.

From the beginning, Monsignor Eduardo Alas, bishop of Chalatenango, blamed the Army for the actions and said that he had corroborated the witnesses' statements.

Colonel Ponce Demands End to FMLN Attacks

PA2002040690 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 1900 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Report on interview with Rene Emilio Ponce, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Salvadoran Armed Forces, by Antonio Mineros on 18 February; place not given—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] Colonel Rene Emilio Ponce, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, commented on the latest FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] attacks against stores just when efforts are being made at the United Nations to restart the dialogue between the government and the guerrillas, and demanded that the guerrillas show a true desire for peace in the country and not create false expectations among Salvadorans.

[Ponce] "We need proof that the FMLN wants to start a sincere dialogue to attain peace in this country. As we have already said, we seriously back President Alfredo Cristiani's efforts to reach peace through a reasonable mechanism such as dialogue."

[Announcer] When referring to the FMLN's latest communique demanding that the Armed Forces must be purged, Ponce curtly replied that this is a strategy that has been used over the years by the FMLN.

[Ponce] "They have maintained this same position since 1984. All they have changed is how they say it."

[Mineros] "After the offensive, the Armed Forces began to mistrust the fact that while talks were under way the FMLN were preparing for military actions. Does this mistrust still exist, Colonel?"

[Ponce] "We have not simply made this up. It is a fact. While they sat at a table holding a dialogue, they were preparing a bloody attack on the Salvadoran people, which all of us witnessed."

[Announcer] Ponce stressed that unless the guerrillas end their violent actions against the economy and the population it is unlikely that any substantive agreement can be achieved in the forthcoming talks.

Commission Reports 1989 Human Rights Violations

PA2002033890 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2303 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] San Salvador, 14 Feb (ACAN - EFE)—The Human Rights Commission of El Salvador (CDHES) reported today that 6,223 civilians were murdered, kidnapped, or arrested in El Salvador during 1989 by the Armed Forces and the guerrillas.

The report issued today in this capital states that 3,700 civilians were "murdered" in 1989, and that 50 percent of them died during the guerrilla offensive initiated on 11 November.

According to the humanitarian organization, 2,299 persons were "arbitrarily" arrested and 224 are considered missing.

According to information gathered by the CDHES from newspapers and from testimonies by relatives of the victims, the Armed Forces and the guerrillas "murdered" 94 civilians and arrested 155 over the same period of time.

The commission reported that in January 1990 alone, the Army captured 59 persons, was responsible for the missing status of another 13, and "murdered" 133.

Commission member Celia Medrano said this has happened in the framework of a martial law decree that resulted in the suspension of individual rights as of 12 November 1989.

Last year's figures are almost double those of the previous year, partly as a result of the November guerrilla offensive, which was the most important of the decade, and the special measures that were implemented afterwards and that are still in effect.

The Catholic Church's Legal Tutelage Office, a humanitarian organization of the Office of the Archbishop, reported recently on the cases of 218 missing persons, which have been attributed to the Armed Forces, and on the cases of 31 persons who were murdered by the guerrillas in 1989.

Archbishop Criticizes Cristiani's Economic Policy

PA2002040590 Paris AFP in Spanish 0324 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] San Salvador, 18 Feb (AFP)—Yesterday, San Salvador Archbishop Arturo Rivera y Damas deplored the economic measures the government established recently "because they will affect poor sectors only," and insisted on the need to end the war.

Recalling from the cathedral's pulpit the promise President Alfredo Cristiani made in his inaugural speech that he would "struggle for the poorest of the poor," Monsignor Rivera y Damas said the mechanisms used by the government are not the most adequate ones to resolve the serious problems in El Salvador.

"If we want to help the poorest among the poor, we must not only honestly and objectively examine the current government model, but seek a definitive solution for the problem of war," the prelate exclaimed.

The highest representative of the Catholic Church in El Salvador said that, in examining the country's economic situation, "the terrorist actions perpetrated by the guerrillas cannot be ignored."

Rivera y Damas warned: "If war continues to be waged in the country, it will continue to strike at us mercilessly and inhumanly, hour after hour."

The Salvadoran archbishop reiterated that the "only way out" of the armed conflict is dialogue and negotiation, because "violence begets only violence."

He also said: "The blood shed in the wee hours of 16 November by the Jesuit churchmen who were brutally mowed down is working for the poor more efficiently than their academic and theological activities serving the people's education."

He was referring to the massacre of six Jesuit priests who were killed by military men, now under trial.

Guatemala

Gramajo Comments on Recent Guerrilla Activities

PA1702013290 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 0400 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] Defense Minister General Hector Alejandro Gramajo spoke on 7 February at a news conference just a few hours after learning of a new guerrilla attack that took place at daybreak on 7 February, against the Tecpan, Chimaltenango police garrison. The guerrillas stole four .38 caliber revolvers, four M-1 carbines, and .30 caliber ammunition, and took patrol car no. CH-02.

During the 7 February news conference, the Army released a summary of guerrilla activities starting in early December, when subversive commandos destroyed the bridge spanning the Coyolate River. During a four-day period in December, the guerrillas sabotaged an electrical tower outside the capital and set fire to a vehicle belonging to the technical-agricultural training institute on the road to Solola.

Two more acts of sabotage against electrical installations took place in the first week in January. A few days later, three government-owned vehicles were set on fire—one belonging to BANDESA [National Agriculrural Development Bank] and two belonging to the Public Health Ministry, which were transporting vaccines to a clinic. During the last days of January, there was another act of sabotage against the electrical system in Quezaltenango and an attack on the village of Pochuta that caused personal injuries and property damage.

Since the weekend, a post at the kilometer 42 road mark along Route CA-9 was attacked and a civilian was killed.

At daybreak on 14 February, the national police garrison at Tecpan, Chimaltenango was attacked, but no casualties were reported.

According to the minister of defense, the leftist guerrillas' new directives came from a recent meeting held in a Central American country, which the military commander did not identify.

[Begin Gramajo recording] They ask me [words indistinct] internationalists. We have confirmed information that a meeting was held in one of the Central American countries in October 1989. North Vietnamese advisers—one of them is now a Vietnamese general, but the meeting was attended by Vietnamese and Cuban generals basically—met with subversive leaders and discussed the strategic plan for the Central American area under the current situation they are suffering. Thus they decided on a desperate plan where the revolutionary people's war was going to focus on taking to its own and only coming to towns to make its [word indistinct]. Eventually, they would get the population to go against the state and then take over power that has been abandoned. This plan was adopted because time is against them; the plan is no longer for a revolutionary people's war, but based on pure terrorism because the international [words indistinct] and also to promote activities within Guatemala, mainly related to the upcoming elections. [end recording]

According to Gen. Gramajo, some rivalries have started among the different Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity [URNG] groups; such is the case of the Rebel Armed Forces [FAR], who have penetrated areas were the Revolutionary Organization of the People in Arms [ORPA] operated, such as the areas of Pachlum, Peten, and Godinez. ORPA now maintains itself south of Chimaltenango, in the northern area of Escuintla and Sacatepequez. The Poor People's Guerrilla Army [EGP] centers its actions against bases.

The defense minister also explained the Army's position concerning the possibility of reinitiating talks with guerrilla representatives.

[Begin Gramajo recording] As you may have noticed, we only refer to the three groups in which they operate. However, we are only talking about armed activities. The Constitution says there cannot be armed bands and [words indistinct] in combat zones. [Words indistinct] euphemisms: dialogue, talks, and conferences. This, however, is not a matter that concerns us. We have been very clear in this sense. We have serious reservations about the validity of a conference, or talks, or whatever that has only been used as a tactical instrument at a specific moment. El Salvador has suffered much in this regard. [end recording]

Honduras

Gunfire Exchanged With Nicaraguan Troops

PA1702193490 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1845 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 17 Feb (DPA)—Members of the Nicaraguan Sandinist People's Army [EPS] exchanged gunfire with soldiers of the Honduran Armed Forces early this morning at the Guasaule border post, approximately 200 km south of Tegucigalpa.

Reports from the area carried by Tegucigalpa radio stations indicated that the soldiers exchanged gunfire for 30 minutes.

One of the eyewitnesses, a local taxi driver who asked not to be identified, said the shooting began early today when a Sandinist soldier entered Honduran territory without permission.

A Honduran corporal ordered the Nicaraguan soldier to return to Nicaragua, but the EPS member, who, according to the eyewitness, was drunk, began to shout at the Honduran soldiers. Heavy shooting began minutes later. However, no casualties were reported on either side.

It was reported that everything returned to normal after the shooting.

The Honduran Armed Forces have not issued an official report on the confrontation. Intelligence sources in Choluteca Department told DPA they could not comment on the incident.

Nicaragua

Bayardo Arce Interviewed on Election Campaign

PA1602171890 Managua LA TARDE in Spanish 13 Feb 90 p 5

[Interview with Commander Bayardo Arce, vice coordinator of the Executive Commission of the Sandinist National Liberation Front, FSLN, National Directorate by Roberto Feonseca; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Fonseca] Commander Arce, there are 12 days left before the FSLN closes its campaign. On this final stretch, will emphasis be placed on the rank and file's work or on propaganda through the media?

[Arce] Electoral campaigns are like track races. There is always a "sprint," a final stretch in which the athlete must put forth all of his capabilities, not only to reach the goal first but to establish records. Based on that premise, the FSLN is driving toward the final stretch.

Starting this week, we will gather all our strength and the entire apparatus that we have been able to design and organize throughout the campaign, with a rank and file of over 60,000 activists organized in Electoral Action Committees (CAES).

These CAES are involved in a gradual process of house-by-house visits to talk with each family about their voting plans and to discuss the mistakes made during the past term. This is not an attempt to win emotional votes, but votes based upon awareness and commitment to the country's future.

However, in the final stretch we will also blend modern publicity techniques with simultaneous meetings with important, decisive sectors such as businessmen, doctors, and others.

It is very important for us to establish more thorough communication with these groups to plan for the future. The final days of the campaign will be a combination of all these elements.

[Fonseca] Objectively speaking, do you believe that in 12 days the FSLN will gain more votes?

[Arce] I believe so. We are still working toward the goal of 70 percent, and we believe that we can still hope to achieve that goal because our adversaries' weaknesses are becoming increasingly obvious on this final stretch.

This could translate into a greater number of votes in Daniel's favor.

[Fonseca] According to the polls, the FSLN already has the youth and women's vote. Will adults be the priority during the final days?

[Arce] The FSLN has already won most of the youth and women's votes, but we have no plans to discontinue work in either sector. We will continue that effort.

We are striving for direct written communication between Commander Ortega and the women regarding their future.

These are efforts based upon the idea that "we must never rest on our laurels."

[Fonseca] Commander Arce, it is rumored that at the closing of the campaign the FSLN will make important announcements. Can you confirm or deny these rumors?

[Arce] Yes, there will be important announcements. We are going to advance a few aspects of the government platform, a series of measures that were not fulfilled because of the war. We will do this because the electoral campaign has made it transparently clear that the FSLN will win, and we can therefore look forward to peace.

Daniel has already announced that one of his first actions will be to resume departmental political and administrative organization, which will return to the country's departments their own identity.

Daniel will not only announce aspects such as these, which are outlined in our government platform, at the closing of the campaign but also at other meetings scheduled for the final stretch.

[Fonseca] Will the announcements be about domestic or foreign policy?

[Arce] There will be announcements regarding both.

[Fonseca] Do you believe Dona Violeta will continue her political activities, or will she return to housekeeping?

[Arce] I am pleased to say that I have been informed that she will recognize the FSLN victory and will be the first to acknowledge Daniel's victory.

This says a great deal about her civic maturity, and we should consider it a responsible contribution to the peace effort to which all Nicaraguans are bound and committed.

After the 25th I hope she will assume the duties the fatherland demands of her and, to begin with, that she will play a role in the legislative branch.

As the owner of LA PRENSA, she will also have an opportunity to play a constructive role, leaving behind the nihilistic attitude that has characterized that newspaper, which does not recognize any of the positive aspects of the revolutionary process and only exaggerates its negative aspects.

[Fonseca] What, in your opinion, has been UNO's [National Opposition Union] historic mistake?

[Arce] UNO's mistake is that it is not a genuine, natural process, or a grouping of similar forces; instead, it is an alliance promoted by the United States in an effort to present an apparently broad front against the FSLN.

Thus, it brought together very different trends such as conservatives and Communists, or former contras and politicians in favor of the civic struggle.

This phenomenon is, in itself, the basic reason for the UNO's weakness; in order to make a machine of such a diversity of parts run is quite difficult.

[Fonseca] What has it meant to you to be the executive director of the FSLN electoral campaign?

[Arce] There is one thing that I must point out. Within the FSLN there have never been single leaders. It was my role to coordinate a team of cadres involved in the FSLN reorganization for the elections or, in other words, in getting the party more involved with the masses, which is what an electoral campaign is all about.

I am nothing more than a soldier in the midst of a historic battle, because we consider the elections the second most important battle in our revolutionary history.

Nunez Meets With Soviet Electoral Delegation

PA2002033690 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 14 Feb 90 p 2

[Text] Commander Carlos Nunez, president of the National Assembly, met yesterday with a delegation of the USSR's Electoral Commission headed by Dmitriy Golovko, vice president of the commission. Golovko praised "the great work carried out by the Nicaraguan electoral branch" and noted that the elections will show the people's true feelings.

The Soviet delegation arrived in Managua on 12 February and will remain in the country until 19 February at the invitation of the president of the Nicaraguan parliament. The commission's activities include bilateral meetings with all the political parties participating in the campaign, the Supreme Electoral Council, and revolutionary government officials.

Golovko said: "We are following the Nicaraguan electoral process with much interest, and we are willing to discuss with them the changes that are under way in the Soviet Union, including those in our country's electoral system."

The Soviet official reiterated the decision of Chairman Mikhail Gorbachev to continue collaborating with the Nicaraguan Government "which will win the elections." He noted that mutually beneficial cooperation—which tends to increase—will continue to mark the path in the bilateral relations between the USSR and Nicaragua.

Golovko, together with delegation members Rajum Radzhabov and Nikolay Ysayev, listened to Commander Nunez attentively while he explained the Nicaraguan electoral process to them. Soviet Ambassador Valeriy Nikolayenko attended the meeting.

Ortega Holds Campaign Rally in Boaco

PA1702003890 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1942 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Campaign rally held by President Daniel Ortega in Boaco—live]

[Text] Good morning. Marta, how is the sun? [applause] Do we get some sun or do we not? [Shouts heard in the background] Just look how many people are gathered here this morning. The GN-UNO [National Guard-National Opposition Union] came around here a few days ago. How long ago did they come here? [Crowd shouts: "Five days!"] Five days ago. Here is the Boaco people's reply. To whom will the Boaco people give their votes? The GN-UNO? [Crowd shouts: "No!"] The GN-UNO says you are Somozists, that the people of Boaco are Somozists and that you will give your vote to the GN-UNO. [Crowd shouts: "No!"] They say you are contras. [Crowd shouts: "No!"] They say that, since you are contras, you will give your vote to the GN-UNO! [Crowd shouts: "No!"] Who are Somozists around here? [Crowd shouts: "No one!"] Who are contras here? [Crowd shouts: "No one!"]

Then, for whom will the people gathered here vote? [Crowd shouts: "Five, five, five!"] Where are those hands? Where are those flags? Where are those arms? Where are those voices? Let me hear you! Whose side is Boaco on? [Shouts heard in the background] Boaco is on Sandino's side. Boaco is on the people's side. Boaco is on the revolution's side. [shouts]

The UNO held a rally here. The GN-UNO held a rally here. The number of people they had at their rally cannot be compared to this. We can say that this morning we crushed and buried the GN-UNO at this stadium. [applause, shouts] This does not include the people who stayed on the streets and the park. Then there was the impressive parade of over 1,400 riders. [Crowd shouts indistinct slogans] The largest parades that we have held have been the ones from Santo Domingo to La Libertad, the one in Matiguas, the one in Esteli, and now this one in Boaco, the first one.

We need not mention the mobilization. A record of popular mobilization has been set in Boaco. Never before in Boaco's history has a mobilization like this been carried out. Over 60,000 Boaco residents have marched through the streets this morning to express their support for the revolution, to express their determination to vote on February 25 in box number [Crowd shouts: "Five!"].

I believe, and I am convinced that all of us who are here today already know who the president-elect of Nicaragua is. [People shout five times: "Daniel."] I am speaking to you as president-elect both of 1984 and of 25 February 1990. I am speaking with this conviction and a certainty of victory. [Shouts, cheers, applause] All of us know who the vice president-elect is. [People shout five times: "Sergio."] We will cast our votes in this square. It is nearly 1400; it is 15 minutes to 1400. It is seven minutes before 1400. We are hungry for peace. For this we are hungry. Is this not so? [People shout: "Yes!"] Or are we hungry for war? [People shout: "No!"] Who is hungry for war? [People shout: "Nobody!"] And the GN-UNO? [People shout: " Yes!"] And the [Sandinist National Liberation] Front? [People shout: "No!"] And the GN-UNO? [repeats himself] [People shout: "Yes!"] And the Front? [repeats himself] [People shout: "No!"] Who wants war? [People shout: "Nobody!"] And the GN-UNO? [People shout: "Yes!"] And the [Sandinist National Liberation] Front? [People shout: "No!"] Who wants peace? [People shout: "The Front!"] And the GN-UNO? [People shout: "The war!"] And the Front? [People shout: "Peace!"]

We are now going to greet the deputies....[changes thought] No, before we do this, I am going to tell you something that concerns what the contras did this morning. It is true that the people of Boaco are in the city, and the people of the municipalities throughout

Boaco are here because they sent representatives, but the brothers of La Libertad, Chontales, are also here. [Shouts heard in the background] There are one—raise your hands—one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, 10, 11—approximately 20, approximately 20 [repeats himself]. They sent approximately 20, but they sure make a lot of noise, right? There are approximately 20 representatives from Santo Domingo, Chontales. A comrade from Santo Domingo, Chontales, is here, and there is another one over there.

Well, what do you think happened? A delegation from Santo Domingo, Chontales, was coming here, and two contras appeared on the road with Yankee-supplied rifles, and they stopped the caravan—but the unarmed people attacked them. They defended themselves with rocks, like Andres Castro, and the contras opened fire killing one comrade. They killed one comrade and wounded two others, two women. Of course, they have AK's, and they fired in spurts when the people attacked them, but the people eliminated one contra. [Shouts heard in the background] The other one....[corrects himself] two contras were eliminated by the people there. [Shouts and applause heard in the background] This shows that the contras are still the main threat to the electoral process. The contras are part of the GN-UNO, that is why the GN-UNO does not condemn them. However, the contras' days are numbered, and I will speak about this.

First of all, I want to introduce the deputies who are here with us. They are from all this zone, from all of these different departments. Boaco and Chontales are brother departments, and I feel proud to have been born in La Libertad, of being a native from Chontales. [Shouts heard in the background] I am also proud of being a brother of Boaco because we are brother departments, neighboring departments. Thus, I can say that I feel like a native of Boaco—honored and proud to be a native of Boaco, to be a Nicaraguan. [Applause, shouts] We are now going to introduce the deputies. Let them approach so that they may come out quickly when we mention their names. We have to vote not only for the president and vice president, we have to vote for the deputies, too. We have to vote for the deputies. We have to vote for the councilmen. We have to vote on the three voting slips. There are three voting slips, just like the billboard shows, and they include box number five, which has a circle. You must put an X in the circle. First, make one line going this way and then make another going that way. Do not put Long live Boaco or anything or else because the vote will be lost or annulled.

Well, here are the candidates to the post of deputies. I might add that if you have ratified them we can very well say that they have deputies who have already been elected by the people. Daniel Nunez, a native of Comalapa. [applause] Daniel Nunez remained behind because we did not want to bring all the people here. We toured the town first and then said: Let us enter alone with our horses and leave everyone else behind so that we can approach the people. You know that the horses do not let the people approach us on the tour.

Well, Daniel Nunez stayed behind but, how many of you give your votes to Daniel Nunez? [Crowd shouts: "I do!"] Then we can say that Daniel Nunez has been elected to the post of deputy by the people. There is also Luis Enrique Figueroa [Shouts and applause heard in the background], Serafin Garcia [Shouts and applause heard in the background], Elias Noguera [Shouts and applause heard in the background], Juan Tijerino [Shouts heard in the background], Luis Felipe Morales [Shouts heard in the background], Julio Mairena [Shouts heard in the background], and Maria Gilma Molina [Shouts heard in the background].

There are women here, no? Where are the women? Where are the women? [Shouts and applause heard in the background] The women are also deputies. The women are here. Otherwise they would not have been deputies. They are here in town, and the town has women deputies. They are Sandinist and Nicaraguan women. They are: Demetrio Duarte, Horacio Bonilla, Juan Ramon Aragon, Marta Garcia, Saturnino Mendoza, Asuncion Jimenez, Aristides Gomez, Rene Contreras, Henry Orozco, Rolando Sevilla, Juan Zelaya, Leopoldo Siles—you have a lot of deputies. Let us see. How many of you will vote for all these deputies I have mentioned? [Shouts heard in the background] Where are those votes? [Crowd shouts: "Here!"] Where are those votes? [Crowd shouts: "Here!"] We can responsibly say that these deputies have already been elected by the people. Now we will present the mayors. There are also some councilmen, but not all of them are here. Let me see...one, two...Santa Lucia has a woman, a comrade, Bernarda Bravo Mendoza. [Applause and shouts heard in the background] Where is Bernarda? Come here. Come closer. Here is Comrade Bernarda. Who will vote for Bernarda? [Crowd shouts: "I will!"] Mariano Malespin Rios for San Jose de los Remates. [Shouts and applause heard in the background] Juan de la Cruz Pena for San Lorenzo. [Applause heard in the background] Roger Garcia Rivas for Chaustepe. [Shouts and applause heard in the background] Enrique Aragon Martin for Camoapa.

From the department's capital [changes thought] we have been talking about the municipalities in Boaco Department: Santa Lucia, Camoapa, Chaustepe, San Lorenzo, San Jose de los Remates, and Boaco, two, four, six; there are six municipalities. Well, the last one is Boaco. I saved it for last because you are the hosts. Right? [Chanting heard in the background] Well, we have the following councilmen for Boaco: Maria Cristina....Maria Cristina...what is Maria Cristina's surname? [Crowd shouts: "Cross!"] What? [Crowd shouts: "Cross!"] Professor Jose Salazar. [Crowd shouts: "Salazar!]

You know them very well, right? It is obvious that they are well chosen candidates. Comrade Telma Vargas Mendez. [Crowd shouts: "Telma! Telma!"] Let me see

Telma! Comrade Angelita Sobalbarro. [applause] Telma and Angelita, greet the women and all the people. [applause] Adelita Ortega. [applause] You see that the.... [changes thought] you see? We do have Boaco blood. [Shouts and applause] [Unidentified woman says: "I hope they [not further identified] fit you."]

Thank you. Teresa Palma de Molina. [applause] Antonio Oporta. [Crowd shouts: "Oporta!"] You know them very well. You have their names memorized. [applause]

Think about this: Five of the eight councilmen here are women. The women are the majority here. [applause] Oh, thank you. I have just been given a belt made by those who became crippled during the war, to belt the GN-UNO on 25 February by marking box number five. [applause, shouts] We will belt them with our votes, we will belt them with our votes, with our votes. [applause] A little spanking so that they behave. [Shouts and applause heard in the background]

Well, is there anyone left? [Crowd shouts: "Guillen!"] Ah, yes, we also have another comrade, Dr. Ramon Guillen Barquero [applause] and Hernan. [applause and shouts] Let me see, where are the votes for Hernan and the Boaco councilmen? [Crowd shouts: "Here!"] [Ortega addresses unidentified person] Give me a little....oh, I have left out Quico [shouts and applause] and he was riding his horse beside me. Quico Gutierrez. [Unidentified speaker shouts: "Here!"] [Shouts and applause heard in the background] Who is going to sing? [Shouts heard in the background] Later. He will sing later. [Shouts heard in the background] What? [Unidentified person shouts: "That is why we came!"]

I am going to break some news to you. I am going to break some news. This is very important news. I have just received here this news. I have several pieces of news to break to you, but I think this is the most important—I mean what I have just received here. It is information we received through a press agency report. I just received it. Why is it important? I will read it to you, and later you will.... [changes thought].

This news report is datelined in Washington today, and it says:

President Bush does not fully trust the cleanliness of the Nicaraguan election process. He is concerned about recent reports presented to him about the elections. Why is he concerned? Because he knows they have lost the elections. He knows they have lost. That is why he is worried.

In statements published by the U.S. newspaper USA TODAY, Bush stresses his concern about recent reports prepared by the Latin American Affairs Office and the U.S. State Department concerning how UNO [National Opposition Union] is being treated. What was he referring to when he says that? Well, Bush is worried because no more than five people attend the UNO rallies and yet when the Sandinist Front—the people—hold a rally, we gather 100,000 people. That is why he is worried. He is worried about the way the people are treating UNO. The Nicaraguan people do not participate in the GN-UNO rallies. They [the United States] thought the people would overflow at the GN-UNO rallies.

They are afraid because after the GN-UNO held a rally in a very small square in the city of Chinandega, we went to Chinandega, and over 100,000 Chinandegan people participated in our rally. We filled three squares at once.

Bush will be even more frightened after our rally in Masaya Department tomorrow, and more frightened yet after our rally in Leon, let alone the big Managua rally on 21 February.

The worst will come on 25 February, when the votes will rain over and multiply themselves in box number... [Crowd shouts: "Five!"] That day the GN-UNO will be left alone. They will be left as their name indicates. UNO means only one, only one, only one. One single bird does not make a summer. UNO means one, it means one.

The press agency report goes on to say:—let me read you the most important part—The U.S. President ruled out all possibility of repeating a Panama-style action in Nicaragua even if the United States was sure that the current Nicaraguan president would be reelected in an election process lacking due democratic guarantees—which means an election process without U.S. blessing. Thus, Bush says that the United States will not interfere in Nicaragua. Why does he say that? He says that because he knows that Nicaragua is no Grenada and no Panama. He knows the Nicaraguan people would fight, defend themselves, and defeat the U.S. troops. I congratulate Bush, because he is acting in a pragmatic and reasonable manner. He is not making the same stupid mistakes that Reagan made. He kept threatening us with an invasion. Bush has already said that although he will dislike such election results, when I win the elections on 25 February, the United States will not invade us.

The information then says: President Bush answered with the word no when asked about that possibility. He was asked: Will you invade Nicaragua? He said: No. He added that there are many leaders throughout the world who have not been elected and yet they can enjoy a good night's sleep. Bush continued: If you are asking me if I will use military force because I do not like the results of an election, the answer is no. He already knows that the GN-UNO has lost the elections, that he has lost the elections in Nicaragua, and he is preparing himself to accept that reality, to accept that reality [repeats himself], and this is very important for all of us. It is certainly very important for the United States, too, because no one in Latin America or throughout the world will think negatively about this. Instead, they will applaud the U.S. President's position.

The document reads like this toward the end: President Bush avoided mentioning whom he wants to win the elections. See, the man does not commit himself. He does not commit himself. They asked him: Whom do you want to win the elections? A few months ago he said that he wanted the GN-UNO to win, and he received their candidates in the United States. Do you remember? Now he does not want to bet, now he does not want to bet [repeats himself] on the loser. He is not a fool. Bush is not a fool.

I believe that Bush is much more intelligent than some fools here in Boaco, and other places in Nicaragua, who continue to bet on the GN-UNO. They continue to bet on the losing horse. We would have to ask ourselves: Has there ever been the slightest possibility of a GN-UNO victory at any time. The GN-UNO was defeated by the people on 19 July 1979. Then, if the people have already voted against Somozism and the Yankee domination, and if they have already voted in favor of their independence and Sandinism on 19 July 1979, is there the slightest possibility that the people will give their vote to the contras and the GN-UNO on 25 February 1990? [Crowd shouts: "No!"]

That possibility does not exist. That possibility has never existed, and U.S. President George Bush is clearly aware of this. It says here: The President did not say whom he wants to win the elections in Nicaragua. That is highly significant because if he had information, if he had any basis for believing that the GN-UNO had any possibility of competing for the elections, then he would say: I want the GN-UNO to win. However, he did not say that. He said: I will not bet on anyone.

Well...[laughs] it is clear that he would not give us his vote. A miracle would have to occur for Bush to give us his vote. It would truly be a miracle. I believe that is difficult, but he certainly is a pragmatic person, a realist. What is President Bush saying now? The president is saying: Even though I do not like the elections in Nicaragua, and even though I will not like the electoral results, I am willing to recognize those electoral results. Even if Daniel Ortega wins the elections I will not invade Nicaragua. That is what Bush said.

I ask, for the first time in Nicaragua, praise for Bush because Bush is helping us bury the GN-UNO! [Applause and shouts heard in the background] We agree with the U.S. President for the first time. We agree that the GN-UNO has already lost, has already lost [repeats himself]. We fully agree with the U.S. President, and I want to invite President Bush....[changes thought] as of this moment, I want to invite him to come to Nicaragua, to know Nicaragua, and to understand our reality. He should learn that the Nicaraguan people are not the enemies of the United States.

They do not know the history of the world. They only know about U.S. history, and this is what has caused so much damage in Nicaragua. We are willing to work in a respectful, serious, and constructive way. Judging from the events which are occurring in the world, people are saying: We do not want wars. We do not want forceful solutions. We want respect among nations. We want peace. We want democracy. This is good news. It is, in truth, good news. It is the best news I could bring for you, my brothers of Boaco Department, and it is the best news that I can give all of the Nicaraguan people today. This news is that the president of the United States has already admitted the GN-UNO's defeat, and has expressed the resolve to come to a future agreement with the Nicaraguan Government. [applause]

I believe this is a proper and responsible attitude on the U.S. President's part.

The other news I have for you is the following: The people in the GN-UNO are promising to resolve our economic problems. I do not know how. I do not know how because they received money from the Yankees and were unable to solve their own economic problems. How can they resolve the economic problems of producers in Boaco? This is where [changes thought] I mean, how could some producers allow themselves to be deceived by the GN-UNO? Do they not see that the economic policies those people defend are economic policies that do not favor the workers or producers?

Of course, most of the producers in Boaco are aware of the policies of the government and the revolution: Our policy has been to protect producers and workers. We have protected both; we have protected the producers and left the workers in a bad situation nor have we protected the workers and left the producers in a bad situation. If we had done that, we would not have accomplished anything. This is the important thing about the revolution. It was formulated to protect the workers and producers so that both of them, along with the government, could improve the country's economy. An economic miracle can only come from the strength of the producers, workers, and government. Using the strength of the government, workers, and producers will result in an economic miracle.

I must inform you, as the current president of Nicaragua, as president of all Nicaraguans, and as president-elect of the 25 February 1990 elections, that I understand the difficult situation faced by producers, and in response to the demands that they have made of the government regarding land ownership security, I would like to assure them that they have no reason to worry. There are no longer any reasons for any kind of land expropriations or any reasons to affect the producers. We are recovering the lands in the war zones, and we will give those lands to peasants who are still landless because we cannot rest as long as landless peasants exist in Nicaragua.

I was talking one day with the producers and told them that we have to establish a land fund. We must gather the land in the war zones. We must gather land from the producers themselves and see what contributions they can make to the fund; we must also gather land from the people's ownership sector to find a solution for the peasants who are landless. So I can guarantee, for the producers in Boaco and Chontales, that we have completed the period of land confiscations which had been necessary during these past 10 years of revolution.

From now on there will not be any reason for further confiscations, but we are obliged to gather land and give it to the landless peasants, and we are also obliged to treat the farm workers fairly. I invite the producers to treat the workers fairly and to establish a good relationship with them for us to improve Nicaragua's economy and perform this economic miracle together. We can perform it, with God's will and the strength of all Nicaraguans. [applause]

The producers have also been asking for vehicles. They have been asking for vehicles, and we have decided to exempt these vehicles from taxes. However, what has happened is that only the wealthier producers can purchase the tax-exempt vehicles. The overwhelming majority of producers, from Boaco, Chontales, Jinotega, and from all over Nicaragua, cannot purchase those vehicles. Therefore, to encourage production, I pledge as of this moment to import 1,000 working vehicles; I will not say when this will occur or that it will continue. We will deliver these tax-free vehicles on credit to the producers and cooperatives, for them to purchase and pay for them according to finances, interest free, interest free. [applause, shouts] I can also assure the producers that during the next term the bank [not further identified] will not confiscate lands because of debts.

We will also get irrigation systems. I could talk for hours about their importance. You know its importance well. I could talk about the importance that irrigation systems have for the dry areas. With those systems, we could immediately increase production in the country's dry areas. We could increase the possibility of producing basic grains in those areas. Those areas are currently and regularly affected by droughts. It is now normal for some of those areas to experience droughts every year and to have their crops affected by droughts every year.

We must assist the producers so that they are able to acquire irrigation systems and other equipment to increase their production.

I recently met with some of those producers and talked to them for a long time. I told them: Listen, we have to revise our entire economic policy together. We must make immediate efforts to increase production.

Today, I wanted to give you some good news. The first bit of news concerned U.S. President George Bush's statements. I also wanted to announce the news about the vehicles and the land.

We have baseball teams here in Nicaragua. We like working, we like working, right? [Crowd shouts: "Yes!"] We like working, but we also like partying, right? [Crowd shouts: "Yes!"] We like singing and we like playing baseball. [Crowd shouts: "Yes!"] We are going to distribute some things here for your baseball teams. We will give equipment for eight baseball teams. These things are to be distributed among the various Boaco Department municipalities. This baseball equipment is for Boaco Department. There is enough equipment for five teams of children to play baseball. There are also six volley balls. These are for the girls. They like volleyball. Oh! They say they like soccer, too. Soccer is a good sport. There are some soccer balls as well. There are also six basketballs. Yes, there are six basketballs, of course.

Please, we need people to help us distribute these balls at the center field where we like to bat. Well, I like to bat toward the right and left fields, too.

How many days do we still have before 25 February? [Crowd shouts: "Ten!"] Nine or 10 days? [Crowd shouts: "Nine!"] Yes, nine days. Nine days!

Thus, this afternoon I want to invite all of my brothers from Boaco Department, regardless of whether some of them have been confused by the GN-UNO, and you to vote for peace in box number [Crowd shouts: "Five!"] on 25 February. I invite you to vote against war in box number [Crowd shouts: "Five!"]. I invite you to vote for economic improvement in box number [Crowd shouts: "Five!"]. Let us vote for more schools and health centers in slot No. [Crowd shouts: "Five!"] Let us vote for more efficient producers and for more economic support from the government and banks in box number [Crowd shouts: "Five!"] Let us vote for better work and social conditions in box number [Crowd shouts: "Five!"] Let us vote for the homeland, for Nicaragua, for our heroes and martyrs, for Sandino, Carlos Fonseca, Rigoberto Lopez Perez, Camilo Ortega, German Pomares, Modesto Duarte, and for all our heroes and martyrs by placing our vote in box number [Crowd shouts: "Five!"] on 25 February!

How many days do we have before 25 February? [Crowd shouts: "Nine!"] When will we vote? [Crowd shouts: "On 25 February!"] And where will we place our vote? [Crowd shouts: "In box number five!"] When will we vote? [Crowd shouts: "On 25 February!"] Where? [Crowd shouts: "In box number five!"] When? [Crowd shouts: "On 25 February!"] Where? [Crowd shouts: "In box number five!"] On 25 February? [Crowd shouts: "In box number five!"] On 25 February? [Crowd shouts: "In box five!"] On 25 February? [Crowd shouts: "In box five!"] Where are those hands that will vote in box five on 25 February? Where? [Crowd shouts: "Here!"] Where? [Crowd shouts: "Here!"] Where? [Crowd shouts: "Here!"] [This interchange between Ortega and the crowd is repeated several more times] Long live the people of Boaco! Long live free Nicaragua! [Crowd shouts: "Viva!"] Free fatherland! [Crowd shouts: "Or death!"] We won! [Crowd shouts: "And onward!"] We won! [Crowd shouts: "And onward!"] We won! [Crowd shouts: "And onward!"] Everything will be better! [Crowd repeats this four times] Everything will be better because the people of Nicaragua have decided so, and because the blood shed by our heroes and martyrs demands it! On 25 February, let us all vote in box number [Crowd shouts: "Five!"] [This interchange with Ortega and the crowd is repeated several times]

Long live Sandino! [applause]

UNO Summons Supporters to Final Campaign Rally

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[Text] Managua, 18 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—Hundreds of opposition members are marching today to Managua's Plaza of the Revolution to conclude the electoral campaign of the National Opposition Union (UNO), which is formed by 14 political parties.

Since early this morning, vehicles with loudspeakers have been circulating through the main Managua neighborhoods calling the Sandinist opponents to participate in the UNO's last political rally.

UNO activists also woke up the residents of Managua with firecrackers and distributed UNO banners.

The UNO's presidential and vice presidential candidates are Violeta Chamorro, widow of Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, anti-Somozist journalist killed on 10 January 1978, and Liberal lawyer Virgilio Godoy.

In statements over a private Managua radio station, UNO leaders are trying to prevent incidents at the rally, asking the opposition members "not to be provoked by the Sandinists." The rally is being watched by Managua police in dozens of police vehicles.

UNO campaign chief Antonio Lacayo said today's rally will "show that the Nicaraguans have lost their fear of the Sandinists."

Meanwhile, President Daniel Ortega, candidate of the Sandinist Front, is going today to Leon, 92 km west of Managua, to conclude the campaign in that region of the country.

Rally Held in Managua

PA1802184490 Paris AFP in Spanish 1814 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] Managua, 18 Feb (AFP)—UNO closed its campaign for the 25 February elections with a huge rally in which presidential candidate Violeta de Chamorro urged the Nicaraguans to "bury the Sandinist dictatorship with votes."

The campaign was closed with a rally in Managua's central Plaza of the Revolution, which was filled with tens of thousands of supporters who the opposition leaders estimated to number more than 200,000.

Chamorro promised to return "peace and reconciliation to the Nicaraguan family" by forming a government of "national salvation" that will carry out the urgent task of "rebuilding the economy," which, she said, has been destroyed by the Sandinists.

There were no incidents during the rally.

Further on Rally

PA1802204890 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1930 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] Managua, 18 Feb (DPA)—The National Opposition Union (UNO) of Nicaragua, composed of 14 political parties, concluded its electoral campaign today with a gigantic rally that overflowed the Managua Plaza, which has a capacity of some 30,000 people.

During the rally, opposition presidential candidate Violeta Chamorro lashed out at the Sandinist regime and she promised (if she wins the elections) to repeal the law that created the Patriotic Military Service of Nicaragua, which has been in effect since 1983, as well as to rebuild the Managua cathedral, which was destroyed during an earthquake that destroyed the capital on 22 December 1972.

The candidate, dressed in white, delivered a 35-minute speech to her followers, most of whom were Nicaraguans brought from the interior of the country by different means. Various means of transportation were necessary, UNO supporters claim, because of government actions hindering the transportation of UNO followers and UNO audio equipment to the rally.

During her speech, which was broadcast by nine private radio stations and rebroadcast by Costa Rica's Radio Impacto, the candidate of the opposition coalition (main contender of the ruling Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] on election day on 25 February) called for national reconciliation of all Nicaraguans and said that if she wins the elections not a single member of the Armed Forces will be jobless.

During the rally, UNO supporters chanted slogans such as: "The FSLN has already lost and UNO is a new government;" "With this rally UNO has won;" and others. The slogans were chanted also by UNO's presidential candidate and her running mate, Virgilio Godoy, a former labor minister under the Sandinist government.

Godoy spoke for 25 minutes at Plaza de Managua. He said that the Sandinists "were unable to prevent our supporters from attending in spite of the fact that the Sandinists paralyzed transportation services." Godoy is president of the Independent Liberal Party.

He said that UNO "has to thank the Central American presidents" for the rally because they made Daniel Ortega sign the regional agreements. "This is a rally against militarism," he said. He urged women to vote in favor of the coalition. He stated that UNO will not permit any vote fraud. "We are not afraid. We are going to be there to prevent vote fraud."

Godoy is the UNO candidate who has been claiming that the Sandinists will commit "fraud." This charge has been strongly criticized by an opposition sector that has also rejected a statement that Godoy made to a Spanish daily calling for violence on election day.

The rally's marshall accused the government of having put Radio Catolica and Radio Noticias, "which broadcast on a national network," off the air. Personnel from these two radio stations, however, made a statement to DPA denying these reports.

A Radio Catolica employee stated that the station had to leave the network because based on the electoral law in effect, religious radio stations are not allowed to broadcast political propaganda. Radio Noticias left the network because it had a commercial commitment by which it had to broadcast a cultural program at 1100.

Chamorro Makes Campaign Speech

PA1802223090 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1700 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Speech by UNO presidential candidate Violeta Barrios de Chamorro at conclusion of the UNO election campaign in the Plaza of the Revolution in Managua—live]

[Text] Nicaraguan brothers, fellow countrymen: Keep in mind that our loudspeakers are not very good. Please pay a little attention to me. I am speaking for all of the Nicaraguan people from the heart of Nicaragua, from this square that will truly be called Plaza of the Republic, because a republic will be born here from your votes. [applause] May I repeat, because a republic will be born from your votes. I am speaking both to all of those who have come here to accompany us on this historic date, and those who are far from here, those who were unable to come, those who are still in prison, those who feel threatened, the thousands in exile, the undecided, all of the Nicaraguan people. Listen to the voice of the homeland in the voice of this woman. [applause]

On this sunny day that announces the end of the dark Sandinist night, I raise my flag of national reconciliation. [applause, cheers] On Sunday, 25 February, the votes of the people will topple the wall of shame, just as the German people toppled the Berlin Wall. [applause] Winds of change are blowing throughout the world, and they are blowing even stronger in Nicaragua. I guarantee that we will not remain in the past. The Somozist and Marxist-Leninist dictatorships have reached their end today. [applause] We are preparing to bury war, hatred, and oppression with our votes. The war is over. This terrible tax of death on the youths and the hearts of mothers is over. No more divine mobs! [cheers] No more military service! [cheers] I have brought the banner of love. Hatred brought war and hunger. Love will bring peace and progress. I assure my dear Central American friends that, once domestic peace has been achieved in Nicaragua, Central America will also have peace. [cheers, applause] This has been a hard, uphill campaign. We have overcome all kinds of difficulties. Our greatest achievement has been that our people have overcome fear [applause] and acquired a great civic awareness. For this reason I want to take this opportunity to appeal to all Nicaraguans for common sense, so they can vote with civic-mindedness on Sunday. After voting, everyone should return home so we do not have any violent incidents.

Let the 25 February elections serve as an example to the world and to the observers, whom we trust to be observers in this grand election battle. I want to tell them that the Nicaraguan people trust that they will be just and honest so that the will of the people is respected.

Nicaraguans: I propose to you peace and national reconciliation. Nicaragua was immersed in war as a result of the militarism of the warmongering Sandinist National Liberation Front.

The bleeding of our young people must come to an end. Every Nicaraguan home has either a son, a brother, or a father who is either in the Army or is wounded, maimed, or dead for having defended a cause alien to the fatherland.

One of my first government actions—I once again commit myself to this—will be to abolish the obligatory military service [Crowd cheers] and to promulgate a general amnesty for all Nicaraguans. I will not let all our children be turned into soldiers. We will build a civic republic.

Nicaragua does not need a large army to defend its sovereignty. If there is democracy and a republican spirit instead of armed power, we will have moral power to make ourselves respected.

My government will not kick any Army personnel out on the street. We will give them opportunities, an education. We will turn them into educated people, professional people, skilled workers, technicians, and teachers. My government will use the resources that are now being spent in fraticidal weapons to build schools, roads, and hospitals, and to buy medicine for health centers. [applause] Our democracy will have more teachers than soldiers, and more schools than barracks. [applause]

Brother Nicaraguans, I propose to you a state of law. The Sandinist regime has replaced the rule of law by the rule of whims of those who govern. They say that the revolution is the source of rights, but it has been the source of injustice.

We live in a state of insecurity because current laws do not protect Nicaraguans. What is ours today cannot be taken by the government. This should be clear. They first pass sentence, then comes the trial, and then they invent charges that suit the sentencing.

My government is going to establish rule of law. All the actions of those in the government and all the actions of the citizens will be ruled by the law to avoid abuse of power.

To achieve this goal we are going to reform the current Constitution and repeal repressive laws: the media law [applause]; laws dealing with the confiscation of property, thus restoring full guarantees for property ownership; and laws concerning police jurisdiction. We are going to reorganize the judicial branch to guarantee true justice.

I address my people, my hard-working people: My government offers to reform labor laws democratically, with the workers' participation. [applause] My government will also promote training programs, guarantee a minimum wage linked to the cost of living, and pay the full 13th month bonus. My government will guarantee all Nicaraguans a fair salary that will provide an honorable living. Sandinism confiscated our salaries through inflation. Today, one dollar equals 70 million old cordobas. Sandinism turned us all into millionaires, but with nothing to eat. [applause] The billions of Sandinist cordobas are not enough to even buy food.

We do not shout demagogic watchwords, but the democracy we promote is profoundly social, with the workers always taking part in all things related to their jobs and lives, because we are going to rebuild Nicaragua. In addition to calling on the workers, I also call on the professionals, the businessmen, and the technicians. Fanaticism and partisanship caused many technicians and professionals to flee. Sandinism caused a great brain drain never seen before. We need for those brains to return. We need technicians, and we offer youths technical careers. We will take a patriotic leap to progress from backwardness. [applause] That is why I call on all of those who returned and also on all of those who opened their closed doors. [applause] I ask you to return. I want the intellectuals to return, because we must carry out the dreams of our Ruben Dario. If the fatherland is small, UNO dreams of it as great! [applause]

I also wish to address the public workers—those workers exploited by the Sandinist regime and forced to attend all the improvised demonstrations. Sandinism has continued to use the old Somozist policy of converting state workers into forced servants of the ruling party. The National Salvation Government is going to put an end to this abuse. It will enforce a civil service law that protects all public workers by establishing a fair salary, deserving treatment, and job security without political pressures.

With my government, not one of the state workers should feel that their jobs are threatened. All of those who do their duties professionally and with a sense of responsibility will stay in their jobs. Fellow countrymen [applause], I would like to touch upon a key point. Our homeland is in ruins. I am asking you—listen please—I am asking you: Are you better off today than yesterday? [Crowd responds: "No!"] Are you better off today than one month, one year, or 10 years ago? Let your reply be heard. [Crowd responds: "No!"] Do you think it is time to change things? [Crowd responds: "Yes!"] Do you want to change things? [Crowd responds: "Yes!"] Only a few are better off. This is why they have been going around saying that all will be better—for them, that is, if they win. [applause, cheers]

The majority of the people, however, do not have food enough to eat three times a day. Our country's economy is in ruins. Our production no longer matches what we eat. This tragedy is the result of 10 years of poor government. Nobody wants to produce because the prices that the government pays for the products make people starve. Products are always subject to confiscation. The money that the peasants receive today loses half its value in a week and becomes worthless in two weeks.

We will reconstruct Nicaragua's economy. We will exterminate the monster called inflation that eats up our salaries. To achieve our purpose of reconstructing our economy, we will use the most powerful instrument available: freedom. Freedom will restore confidence between those who govern and those who are governed. First of all, we must have freedom of expression, so all radio stations can be heard, even those of the state. In a cowardly move, the government ordered even those radio stations closed. [cheers, applause]

My husband, Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, used to say: Freedom of expression is the key to all other freedoms. In my government, there will be no black or red-black codes. [cheers] Workers will be free to organize themselves and negotiate a fair salary for their work. Listen, the young people will be free to go to school. They will be truly taught. They will be scientifically and technically trained. Businessmen will be free to decide on the kind of business to invest in without fear of confiscations or devaluation. Peasants will own the land they work. They will decide what to produce, to whom they will sell their crops, and what will be a fair price for it. With freedom we will construct a prosperous future for all of the Nicaraguan people, for us and our children.

Those who are out of the country, in exile, will be free to return with their families to reconstruct their homeland. There is, however, another aspect of our economy that deals with the peasants, the farmers, the cattlemen, the peasants who produce.

When we become the government, we will face the challenge that the 1990-91 agricultural cycle represents. We must produce food and export products. My government will grant bank credits at low interest rates.

There will be chemical products and spare parts for machines. We will facilitate the acquisition of tractors and agricultural equipment, and there will be freedom to sell harvest products to the most suitable buyer. [applause]

Sandinism has exterminated our livestock sector. My government will establish a program to recover livestock. The National Salvation Government will turn the agrarian reform into a source of production and well-being.

Peasants who work the land they now rent from the Sandinists, from Sandinism, will be given land titles for that land. [applause] Participation in cooperatives will be voluntary, and there will be no interference by the state.

Property is sacred. There will be no more confiscations. The past owners of land now in the hands of peasants or cooperatives will be justly compensated for that land, but peasants will not be dislodged. Urban settlements will receive the same treatment. Nicaragua has fertile land for everyone. In my government there will not be men without land or land without men. Freedom and progress will return to the countryside.

I will conclude by addressing all religious believers. My government will always show the utmost respect for the human being and his conscience. This means that abuse, persecution, manipulation, and irreverence for the religious beliefs of the Nicaraguans will come to an end. My government promises not only freedom, but also respect. Nicaragua has many cathedrals and churches because the Nicaraguans believe in God, and they have a temple in their heart that must never be desecrated.

I want to take advantage of this opportunity to announce that in my government we will have a dignified cathedral! I will make every effort so that Managua may have a beautiful cathedral, because our cathedral is still waiting to be reconstructed, as we can see. [cheers]

I want to tell our great shepherd, Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, on behalf of this peace-loving people, that we acknowledge and admire all the efforts he has made for peace and national reconciliation. [applause] We also hope he will act as guarantor in this election process so violence may not again find suitable ground in Nicaragua.

Fellow countrymen, next Sunday, on 25 February, the Nicaraguans will choose between the peace that I propose and militarism—Sandinism. [applause]

We are going to choose between progress in freedom and a continuation of the crisis we are in right now. We are going to choose between a democratic government and Sandinist continuity. [applause] Nicaraguans, your vote is secret, your vote decides. Remember, there is a box on the ballot that means liberty! [applause] Do you know what box it is? [Crowd shouts: "One!"] If you want to be free and leave misery and oppression behind, mark off box number one! If you want everyone to respect you and not have your rights denied you, vote in box number one! If you want your children to have a future instead of death, vote for the future, vote for a change! Do not allow your hand to tremble; mark box number one without fear! There are three ballots. Each ballot you mark off with an X—a little cross, whatever you may want to call it— will mean goodbye to the past! [applause]

Before ending, I wish to thank you, my dear friends, for this marvelous rally, with people who have come from all parts of Nicaragua. I also want to thank those who were prevented from coming. All those cowards who have not allowed you through will pay for this, because they will not win the 25 February elections. [applause] Even though Radio Catolica and the other radio station were closed down by the government, you will have the woman's voice through our newspaper or through the honorable journalists who are here who can report the truth. [applause]

I also want to thank all the organizers of this marvelous rally, as well as those people who have come here to this stand and who will vote with civic-mindedness on 25 February. [applause] I ask for applause for my campaign manager Engineer Antonio Lacayo, who organized this from the beginning. [applause] I ask for a great round of applause for our future mayor, Dr. Arnoldo Aleman. [applause] I ask for a show of great appreciation, one that can be heard, for the UNO's Political Council. [applause] I ask for great applause for my advisers, whom I have here on my right, and also to my friends, and all the Nicaraguan people. [applause] Long live the Nicaraguan people! Long live liberty! [Crowd chants: "Long live!"] Long live democracy! [Crowd chants: "Long live!"] Long live UNO! [Crowd chants: "Long live!"] Nicaragua will once again become a republic, with Violeta and all my heart! Thank you, my dear friends! [applause]

Godoy Speaks at Rally

PA1902001690 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1735 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Speech by UNO vice presidential candidate Virgilio Godoy at the close of the electoral campaign at the Plaza of the Revolution in Managua—live]

[Text] People of the capital: Managua sums up Nicaragua. Managua today is demonstrating that we have defeated the Sandinist dictatorship. [cheers, applause] This is without people being brought to this rally in state trucks, and without state money being used. The Managua people, who are the sum of all of Nicaragua, are saying now, once and for all: From now on, enough of Sandinism! [cheers, applause] We have walked a long and arduous road to reach this moment. There is an old saying: He who perseveres will triumph. We have persevered, and the victory is in our hands. Nothing and no one will take it away from us next Sunday. [cheers, applause]

We have battled in a thousand ways, without money and against disinformation, misleading polls of opinion, and those who have profited from Sandinism. We have won once again because this is the Nicaraguan people's will. [cheers, applause] This long road that started 10 years and eight months ago culminates in this historic plaza today, where the Nicaraguans of Managua, who represent all of Nicaragua, are saying: This is the end of Sandinism! Goodbye Sandinism! Forward with democracy in our country! [crowd chants: "UNO, UNO!"]

They could not prevent the impressive presence of more than 200,000 Nicaraguans of Managua, although they took away the public transportation vehicles and prevented us from bringing the sound equipment we had borrowed to use here. Nothing prevented each of us from walking, since early in the morning, from Villa Sandino, Sabanagrande, and Siguantepe to attend this demonstration of faith in freedom, justice, and democracy.

We must keep in mind that we owe part of this to the Central American presidents, who, in Esquipulas II, had the dictator sign what he regarded as a trick.

Here is the answer! Here is the voice of the people now! [cheers] This is not only a demonstration of popular joy and of optimism. We are here because we are searching for what all Nicaraguans—the young, the old, the women—most want: definite peace. This is a demonstration against the militarism and the warmongering of the Sandinist dictatorship, a demonstration against persecution by the Sandinist dictatorship. This demonstration proves that the Nicaraguan people always wanted to be free, and that a week from now we will be free. [applause]

Today I want to make a final appeal to those who will vote on Sunday. We have said that 54 of every 100 votes cast will be from women. The future of the Republic is in the hands of the Nicaraguan women—the mothers, the wives, the daughters, the sisters, the fiancees—and we know they will not forsake Nicaragua in this situation. [applause] They will not forsake Nicaragua because the women have suffered the effects of the warmongering and militaristic policy of the Ortega brothers' regime. They have suffered the aggression. They have felt it in their own flesh, in what is dearest to them: their children, their husbands, their brothers, their fiances.

With their votes on 25 February, those women will be presenting their bill of costs to Sandinism. [cheers] Close behind our mothers, our women, our sisters, our daughters, our fiancees, will be the young men, the men over whom the women have suffered so much, and they will be followed by those of us who are no longer young. No one will stay home this coming Sunday. On that day, like today, in spite of obstacles and difficulties the dictatorial regime may present, we will massively vote at the voting stations.

We are going to be there, watchful, to defend the people's victory, the victory of the votes, the civilized victory, the victory of peace. We are not going to let them steal these elections from us. These are elections for the people's liberty and democracy. [cheers]

I have said that this beautiful demonstration of patriotism, civility, and faith in the future must be accompanied by the firm will to go to your Sunday date. All Nicaraguans, all Managuans, everybody from the capital, must be at the voting stations before the sun rises, because this is a date with Nicaraguan history. We are on the verge of achieving a deed never before achieved in the country's history: a peaceful change of government, through votes, not through bullets.

Ten years ago, ten and a half years ago, we were celebrating a violent change of government here. This time we are going to do it in a civic, peaceful, and civilized way, the way we must continue doing it.

This does not mean that we are afraid of the dictatorship's repressive apparatus. Are we afraid? [Crowd shouts: "No!"] We are not afraid. Therefore we are going to be watchful so that they do not try to pass over the will of the people, because the people who have gathered here will rally to prevent any stealing of votes the dictatorship may try. [cheers]

We want a peaceful transition to return to Nicaragua the sense of security that was lost when the government of the nine gentlemen of war was installed.

We want Nicaragua to recover trust in itself, so that all of us will want to live in our fatherland. We only have one fatherland: Nicaragua. It is here that we want to live. It is here that we are going to die.

There are those who think about other fatherlands. Let those who think they have several fatherlands make their choice. The road is open. We Nicaraguans only have this fatherland, and we are going to stay here, regardless of who likes it or not. [cheers]

It is said that Nicaragua is the country of the unbelievable coming true. Maybe it is so. Everybody abroad has bet against the people of Nicaragua and in favor of the dictatorship. We are going to show them what the Nicaraguan people can do and what the Nicaraguan people want. [cheers]

If no bloody dictatorship, like this of the nine commanders, has ever fallen by peaceful means, here in Nicaragua we are going to do it. We are going to kick them out with votes this coming Sunday. [cheers]

This is what we call presenting the bill of costs. On Sunday, 25 February, when we vote, we must remember everything the people have had to endure under the government of the nine incompetent and corrupt men who have committed aggression against the people.

The voters must be firm so that they do not hesitate when putting the mark on the circle of national salvation. All of us must exhibit then the political awareness we are demonstrating today in the heart of old Managua, in front of the destroyed cathedral, at one side of its old park.

No one can move us to cast a consolation vote for Sandinism, because here the alternative is: They go, or they stay. What do the Nicaraguan people want? [Crowd shouts: "Out with them!"] Yes, friends, brothers, companeros: This is the idea.

This election will be more than a simple election. It will be a plebiscite that will flatly say no to Sandinism, that will say no more Sandinism, no more commanders, no more war, no more military service, no more hunger, no more misery, no more persecution.

There can be no mistake. UNO is the people. The others are the enemies of the people. We will vote against them on 25 February. [cheers, applause] We feel greatly comforted by this demonstration that the people understand, highly regard, and love. This is unlike the Sandinists, who say the people enjoy grief and suffering. Today we proved, as we have proved all along this road, that the people prefer gladness, hope, and the knowledge that there is a brighter future for each of them and their children. We have struggled for this people, these women, youths, and children, all of whom are entitled to a better homeland—those the Sandinists called the pampered and whom they thought about only in December, when the elections were near. It is for them that we have rallied here in this plaza, honoring and expressing solidarity with a great woman, one of the many suffering women of our homeland, Violeta Barrios de Chamorro. [cheers, applause]

I have always had faith in you. We have seen this warmth, those shining eyes, and those happy faces in the smallest towns and largest cities. Leon, Chinandega, Matagalpa, Rivas, Juigalpa, Jinotega, Somoto, Ocotal, and Jinotepe are a long way away, but the people have the same way of expressing themselves everywhere. The people want a change, and we will bring about a change next Sunday. [Crowd cheers, applauds, and chants several times: "UNO!"]

There is something else I want to tell you this wonderful morning, this morning of glory for the people. I not only trust you, but this extraordinary lady also. I know she will make good her word to the letter. [Crowd cheers, applauds, and chants several times: "Chamorro!"]

When the National Salvation Government assumes office, Violeta de Chamorro will be with the people and beside the people. She will hold the people's hands in the people's joy and sorrow. I am completely sure that Violeta de Chamorro's word is worth gold and that she will always live up to what she has offered you. [Crowd shouts: "Long live UNO!"]

Long live the National Opposition Unity! [Crowd shouts: "Long live!"] Long live the victorious Nicaraguan people! [Crowd shouts: "Long live!"] Long live the capital of the Republic! [Crowd shouts: "Long live!"] Long live Violeta! [Crowd shouts: "Long live!"] Long live the young people! [Crowd shouts: "Long live!"] Long live our heroic women! [Crowd shouts: "Long live!"] Long live free Nicaragua! [Crowd shouts: "Long live!"]

Candidates Discuss Relations With United States

PA1802182890 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 14 Feb 90 pp 1,8

[Text] Political leaders of several opposition parties agreed yesterday that, following the elections, the U.S. Government will seek a normalization of relations with Nicaragua, although they clearly stated that "there are no differences" between the people of the two countries.

These statements were made to EL NUEVO DIARIO by presidential and vice presidential candidates and by candidates for legislator positions in the National Assembly, who believe that if the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] wins "it will mean another defeat for the U.S. Government."

Julio Ramon Garcia Vilchez, first candidate for the post of legislator for the Social Christian Party (PSC) - Popular Social Christian Party (PPSC) coalition, said that the United States' first defeat in Nicaragua occurred during President Ronald Reagan's administration because he was never able to oust the government with the counterrevolution.

He indicated that the so-called National Opposition Union (UNO) will become the Yankees' second defeat because it will not win the elections, a fact that is already being reported in the U.S. media.

Garcia Vilchez believes that this defeat will compel the U.S. Government to seek a normalization of relations with Nicaragua.

The Yankees "will try to protect their interests" in those negotiations, "so the agreement should be carefully reviewed," according to the PSC politicians, who rejected the idea that the nation's sovereignty would be affected by such an agreement.

Garcia Vilchez said that if it only involves the normalization of relations "to open new markets and lift the commercial embargo, and a broad process of democratization is not carried out in Nicaragua, then the normalization will not last long."

"It is a critical step both for the Nicaraguan and the U.S. Governments, because issues that have been used as a rallying cry will be at stake," he said.

Doctor Daniel Urcuyo, vice presidential candidate for the Central American Unionist Party (PUCA), said that Nicaragua and the United States "should participate in an open forum to settle their differences with all the necessary witnesses, so that they can establish the groundwork for a durable peace once and for all."

He recalled that, 10 years after the ouster of Somoza, "we have witnessed the U.S. authorities' constant harassment of the revolutionary process and the parties that support the process in one way or another."

Urcuyo believes that "the talks between Nicaragua and the United States should begin" immediately after the electoral results are determined "so that we can settle this conflict once and for all." The PUCA politician recalled that the government has been advocating a dialogue with the United States since 1979.

The vice presidential candidate believes that the United States must provide proof that it wants to achieve an agreement. For example, it could allow the Aeronica airline to operate inside the United States. He said that the Bush Administration must lift the economic embargo because it has not only affected the government but also the people.

Carlos Cuadra, vice presidential candidate for the Marxist - Leninist People's Action Movement [MAP - ML], said that the conditions created by the current electoral process "are aimed at encouraging a negotiation between the Sandinist government and the counterrevolutionary forces. There has been no democratization process here."

The MAP - ML candidate believes that the conditions are present to carry out the forces to fight them." [sentence as published]

Alfonso Moncada, candidate for deputy of the Independent Liberal Party of National Unity (PLIUN), said that a negotiation with the United States "is contemplated in the Central American peace plan because the Reagan administration failed when trying to oust the Sandinist government through the counterrevolution."

The Liberal politician said that "this negotiation must take place because the demobilization of the contras that is slowly taking place is part of a plan for normalization." He added that these elections "are closely linked to a negotiation."

Moncada feels that there are signs of a normalization of relations with the United States, "but the only thing delaying it is putting an end to the UNO project, which will disappear on 25 February, inasmuch as that is the only effort by the U.S. Government to oust the current Sandinist government."

Dr. Fernando Aguero Rocha, presidential candidate for the Social Conservative Party (PSOC), also expressed his viewpoints and said that "whoever wins these elections must seek relations with all the developed countries, including the United States."

Dr. Aguero Rocha added: "I believe it would be very healthy and beneficial for our country to establish relations with the United States, but this depends on the opening and flexibility of the democratic process in Nicaragua. Nicaragua should normalize relations not only with the United States but also with the European market."

Other countries that are open for Nicaragua are the countries of the Eastern Bloc, Dr. Aguero Rocha said in referring to the past tense relations with the United States, "which were because of a lack of democratic opportunities in Nicaragua."

He concluded: "I feel this opening of the democratic process is beneficial for the entire country, and I hope the new government is able to handle this political and economic opening that will promote social peace in Nicaragua."

The opinion expressed by Dr. Clemente Guido, deputy of the Democratic Conservative Party, differed from those expressed by the other politicians. He stressed that the normalization of relations with the United States "depends on who wins the elections."

Dr. Guido said that "if the UNO wins the elections, the Americans will be here, and there will not be any negotiations because they will be here to hug and kiss. However, if the FSLN wins the elections, things will not be that easy."

He stressed that "if we win, I do not think there will be hugs and kisses with the Americans," adding: "Therefore, I am not as optimistic as those who say that these elections will put an end to the war and that peace will prevail."

When referring to reports appearing in the U.S. media to the effect that Daniel Ortega will win, he said that U.S. newspapers can print what they want, because "it is not like in Nicaragua where there is an official newspaper such as BARRICADA."

Concerning the elections, Clemente said that a U.S. military intervention has been ruled out by virutue of the agreements signed by the United States and the Soviet Union at Malta. He concluded that although the United States will recognize the results of the elections if the FSLN wins, the United States "will merely tolerate the FSLN."

PSC's Pastora Absent From Campaign Closing

PA1902015090 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0020 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Managua, 18 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—The Social Christian Party [PSC], in the opposition, closed its election campaign today in Managua. Eden Pastora, an anti-Sandinist known also as Commander Zero, was not there for the event.

Those at Managua's Cabrera Theater, where the political meeting took place, heard a recorded message from Pastora informing them that "because of a lack of economic resources" he was unable to come to Managua to participate in the event closing the PSC campaign.

Some days ago, opposition political sources had said that Pastora had withdrawn his support from the PSC, but PSC leaders said this was untrue. Pastora joined the electoral struggle in Nicaragua in December, at the beginning of the election campaign that will end on Wednesday. Some 15 days ago, the former guerrilla commander returned to Costa Rica, where he has his residence, and did not return to Managua.

At the beginning of this month, the PSC, whose leader is Erick Ramirez, lost the support of Yatama (children of the motherland, in Miskito), an alliance of Nicaragua's Atlantic coast Indians headed by Brooklyn Rivera. The Yatama leaders announced two weeks ago that they will support the National Opposition Union's presidential candidate Violeta Chamorro.

The PSC still has the support of a Popular Social Christian Party sector headed by Mauricio Diaz, who attended the campaign closing event today.

13 Feb Press Review on Election Campaign

PA1702034490

[Editorial Report] The government newspaper BARRICADA, on pages 3 and 5, reports on the rally held in the town of Monimbo, Masaya Department, on 12 February for the presidential and vice presidential candidates, Daniel Ortega and Sergio Ramirez. The newspaper reports that "20,000 people provided a small preview of what the closing campaign rallies of the FSLN will be like." The newspaper notes that the rally was to be held with the people of Monimbo, but when the people from nearby towns found out that "Daniel and Sergio" were going to be in the area, they joined in.

On page 2, an undated interview with the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) mayoral candidate in Managua, Carlos Carrion, is published. Carrion says that the "majority of the people are certain that the elections will be just and clean." He notes that 70,000 of the people registered to vote are between 16 and 20 years old "and we have a good level of communication with them."

The same paper reports on page 6 that the "National Opposition Union (UNO) militants who attacked the FSLN political secretary, Martin Flores, with bottles in Comalapa, have been arrested by the Sandinist police. The report adds that Juigalpa Police Chief Harold Morales is calling the incident a common crime and the Regional Electoral Council has the responsibility of deciding whether the incident is political in nature.

BARRICADA, on pages 3 and 4, reports opposition leaders' reaction to the 12 February report in the government newspaper LA TARDE on how UNO is planning to distribute cabinet posts if it wins the elections. Erick Ramirez, leader of the Social Christian Party, said that "this is an irresponsible action of UNO." Alfonso Moncada, of the Independent Liberal Party for National Unity, complained that the distribution of posts before the elections "shows a lack of seriousness."

Carlos Cuadra, of the Marxist-Leninist People's Action Movement regretted UNO's "interpretation of unity," the report adds.

The report explains that Dr. Jose Maria Morales, who is one of the people who appears on the UNO list as a candidate for the post of vice minister of education, when interviewed by this newspaper made the following statement: "Putting modesty aside, I will say that I would not be vice minister, but minister."

The pro-government newspaper EL NUEVO DIARIO on page 2 reports that the UNO activists in Chinandega have gone on strike. They have peacefully taken over the local campaign headquarters building "until they receive their wages for January and February." Local rerpesentatives have said that they do not have the money to pay their salaries.

The government newspaper LA TARDE, on page 3, publishes an article by Roberto Larios in which he says that Virgilio Godoy "is constantly trying to pass himself off as the UNO candidate." He adds that at the Tipitapa rally, on 11 February, Godoy tried again to place himself ahead of Violeta de Chamorro. It has even been rumored that he has already selected his own cabinet, and will try to steal the presidency from her.

The same paper on page four carries the "Striking a Spark" column by Julian Corrales, administrative director of the Supreme Electoral Board (CSE) who claims that all of the political parties and groups have demanded access to the voters' lists. The electoral board delivered these lists, however, after receiving them, "not one of the political groups has made the effort to comment on, object to, or suggest any changes for the lists." The electoral observers even returned the lists without commenting.

The opposition newspaper LA PRENSA on page 3 publishes an article by Roger Suarez Martinez who notes that the opposition politicians believe that recent announcements by the Sandinists about the possibility of repealing the Military Service Law and the pardon for 1,039 political prisoners, are for "electoral purposes only" and if the Sandinists were to win, "they would again effect the repressive laws they have been implementing for 10 years."

The same paper, on pages 1 and 12, publishes an article on a crusade by professionals and private enterprise sectors to recruit poll watchers for the UNO. Recently, Virgilio Godoy denounced that "one half of the voting tables do not have a UNO representative assigned to it."

The profesionals are trying to fill these vacants posts to guarantee the honesty of the elections.

Also on pages 1 and 12 of the same paper, a report is published on Violeta de Chamorro urging all UNO leaders to verify their lists of poll watchers. It was announced recently "that the State Security organizations would try to infiltrate the UNO poll watchers organization." Yamilette Bonilla, head of the UNO Managua Electoral Control Board said, "the names of the new poll watchers will not be revealed in order to prevent the State Security agencies from trying to intimidate them."

14 Feb Press Review

PA1702215690

[Editorial Report] On the subject of mutual accusations and charges of unfair campaign practices between the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) and the National Opposition Unity (UNO), the pro-government newspaper LA TARDE, on page 2 publishes a 400-word report on an official document delivered to international observers by the FSLN, stating that as a result of violence promoted by UNO over the past two months of the election campaign, 51 FSLN militants have been injured and 3 killed. The document also mentions 21 cases of verbal attacks.

On the same subject, the pro-government newspaper BARRICADA on page 5 carries a 700-word report on a televised debate in which Julio Ramon Garcia Sanchez, Social Christian Party candidate for deputy described UNO as a "pro-U.S. and opportunistic rightist group." Garcia also said that UNO leaders are only interested in obtaining and misusing U.S. funds.

The same paper on page 2 carries a 240-word report saying that UNO members offered money for votes in Somoto, and that about 35 peasants sold their votes.

The pro-government paper EL NUEVO DIARIO on page 8 publishes a 400-word report on a speech delivered by Commander Tomas Borge at a women's meeting in the Villa Venezuela neighborhood in Managua, during which he said that FSLN's victory is essential for peace, because in the hypothetical case UNO should win the elections, they would never forgive the FSLN for taking land away from the exploiters and delivering it to the peasants. He predicted an overwhelming FSLN victory.

The opposition also reports some cases of unfair campaign practices. The opposition daily LA PRENSA on page 6 carries a 300-word article saying that people have been complaining because they are receiving telephone calls with a recording of Daniel Ortega telling them how they should vote, and youths have been visiting homes as Electoral Tribunal officials, instructing people on how to vote for the FSLN.

The same paper on page 6 publishes a 325-word letter to the Supreme Electoral Council by Hernaldo Zuniga Montenegro protesting the illegal use of television time by the FSLN, UNO propaganda being defaced by the FSLN, and interference of Radio Catolica.

Another 250-word report on page 7 of the same paper says that UNO activists have seen Sandinist youths erasing UNO slogans and painting over them, and that the FSLN is trying to organize a boycott of UNO's closing campaign rally on 18 February.

On the subject of pre-electoral polls, BARRICADA, on page 3 carries a 300-word editorial on polls conducted by international firms that clearly show that Daniel Ortega will win the elections by a wide margin and that polls have reflected this despite manipulation.

The same paper on page 3 carries another 300-word editorial stating that although polls indicate FSLN will win, ultrarightist groups and LA PRENSA are not ready to accept defeat and may try to promote violence on election day to claim fraud. The editorial calls on the Supreme Electoral Council, UN, OAS missions, and Cardinal Obando Y Bravo to prevent confrontations.

Meanwhile, LA PRENSA on page 3 publishes a 500-word report concerning a poll conducted by Univision that was published in BARRICADA on 13 February, saying that it cannot be taken seriously because one of the firm's executives admitted that it has big defects.

Another 400-word report on page 3 of the same paper says that Cardinal Obando y Bravo has stated in an interview with LA PRENSA that the real poll will be on 25 February, when people vote. He issued a call for honest elections.

Concerning the possibility of electoral fraud, LA PRENSA on page 3 publishes a 450-word report saying that Alfredo Cesar, UNO legislative candidate and strategist, told the U.S. newspaper EL NUEVO HERALD that UNO will contest Sandinist leaders a few hours after the closing of polls if the official count varies from UNO exit polls. He stressed that UNO plans to act rapidly to report any fraud.

In contrast, EL NUEVO DIARIO on page 25 publishes a 3,000-word report that the Nicaraguan elections represent an unprecedented experience for any sovereign country and that the presence of more than 2,000 international observers—600 of them from the OAS and United Nations—will be a new model for peace.

On other aspects related to the election campaign, BARRICADA on page 4 publishes a 500-word report on a speech delivered by Jaime Wheelock, minister of agriculture, livestock development, and agrarian reform to cooperative members in Region Four, stating that the government will guarantee land for peasants, cooperatives, and private owners, and urging them to vote for the FSLN.

A 50-word report on page 2 of the same paper says that during a meeting of small industrialists and craftsmen, Juana Salgado Villegas, alternate UNO council candidate resigned from the opposition alliance.

On page 4 BARRICADA publishes a 400-word note in the "Letters" column, written by Gretta Paiz Malespin, a resident from Puerto Cabezas, in which she criticizes the Yatama group's links with UNO. She says that treason against the Indian population in the North Atlantic was consumated when the UNO-Yatama alliance was confirmed through Brooklyn Rivera and Steadman Fagoth.

EL NUEVO DIARIO on page 25 carries a 3,000-word commentary by Manuel Eugarrios, entitled "What Will Become of UNO Once the Elections Are Over?" Eugarrios says that those who believe that UNO will dissolve after losing the elections are wrong. He describes UNO as a weak union, adding that each party would go their separate ways if they were strong enough, but that they lack social foundations. According to Eugarrios, the main reason for their continued alliance is that it is the only way they can have a say in the National Assembly.

15 Feb Press Review

PA1902035390

[Editorial Report] The afternoon Sandinist newspaper LA TARDE publishes a 200-word report on page 4 that says UNO heads the list of political organizations that have taken to the task of destroying political propaganda of other parties, especially those of the FSLN. In this regard, Erwin Mayorga, a Managua regional electoral committee official, explained that "to avoid these acts of vandalism, we would have to patrol the streets of the capital 24 hours a day, and that is impossible."

On the same subject, LA TARDE publishes on page 4 a 100-word report from Region Four, charging that UNO activists are offering sums of money of up to 300,000 cordobas in exchange for voter registration cards in the town of Las Cruces. The same article gives the names of three people caught destroying FSLN propaganda. The report adds that alleged UNO members stoned FSLN supporters on their way back from a rally in Granada.

The opposition newspaper LA PRENSA publishes a 300-word article on page 17 in which COSEP, the Higher Council of Private Enterprise, complains about the fact that FSLN candidate Daniel Ortega is confiscating property from private owners and giving it away to his constituents "to remain in power and weaken private sector institutions."

Concerning pre-electoral polls, LA PRENSA publishes a 450-word report on pages 3 and 12 on the results of the latest poll conducted by the Costa Rican firm Borge and Associates, Inc. According to this poll, "UNO would win the 25 February presidential elections with 45.3 percent of the votes, while the FSLN would receive 35.6 percent of the votes. The rest of the political parties would only get 8.3 percent." As for the legislative elections, the poll shows that "UNO would receive 44.6 percent of the votes, while the FSLN would place second with 33.9 percent."

Still on the subject of polls, LA PRENSA includes a 350-word article on pages 3 and 12 revealing "new details that totally discredit the UNIVISION [U.S. Spanish-language television network] survey in which the FSLN appears to win the elections by more than 50 percent of the votes." According to the article, Peruvian Sergio Bendixen, the man who directed the poll in which "no more than 500 people participated," is a well-known leftist who has failed to predict the outcome of other elections in the United States.

As for the possibility of electoral fraud, the newspaper LA TARDE publishes a 500-word interview on page 5 with Oscar Melendez, president of the Managua regional electoral committee, who says that UNO is shouting fraud 10 days before the elections, but has not yet appointed party poll representatives and their alternates. Melendez adds that UNO officials have not attended the courses imparted by the Supreme Electoral Council.

Meanwhile, the FSLN newspaper BARRICADA includes a 200-word report on page 9 citing UNO presidential candidate Violeta Chamorro as saying in Bluefields that "if we do not vote on 25 February we will lose the elections, because they will be honest."

In other aspects regarding the election campaign, LA PRENSA publishes a 520-word report on pages 1 and 12 on Violeta Chamorro's visit to Puerto Cabezas where some 8,000 residents greeted her, including Steadman Fagoth Muller, leader of Yatama, an organization of Miskito, Sumu, and Rama Indians and Creole groups. During her speech Chamorro promised to abolish the military service if elected.

LA PRENSA also publishes a 350-word report on pages 1 and 12 on Violeta Chamorro's visit to Bluefields, where she was greeted by "over 15,000 people of different social and ethnic groups." The newspaper report adds that Chamorro was accompanied by observers from the United Nations, the OAS, the Carter Center, and the Center for Democracy.

The pro-government newspaper EL NUEVO DIARIO publishes a 430-word commentary by Francisco Bravo Lacayo on page 2, saying there are two trends within UNO, one moderate and the other violent. The latter trend, according to the commentary, is led by UNO vice presidential candidate Virgilio Godoy, who has threatened "to settle accounts with the Sandinists after the elections." The commentary adds that it seems the calls made by the FSLN and Monsignor Miguel Obando y Bravo to avoid violence have been ignored. The writer ends by asking himself "whether Godoy is following secret orders from the most warmongering U.S. leaders, who have not abandoned the idea of repeating the dark and shameful episode in Panama."

Meanwhile, LA PRENSA on page 2 carries a 550-word editorial criticizing Daniel Ortega's reaction to the announcement made by the opposition that it will demand that he account for his actions once the Sandinists are defeated on 25 February. The editorialist says he does not understand why Ortega became so excited about it, to the point of threatening to confiscate the homes of all UNO leaders and turn them into child daycare centers, because, the editorial adds, all presidents present a report of the work done during their administration once they leave office.

16 Feb Press Review

PA1902042490

[Editorial Report] The Sandinist newspaper BARRICADA on page 3 carries an editorial entitled "Dumb and Dangerous Adventurism," which states that the threats made by UNO leaders Virgilio Godoy and Alfredo Cesar are very dangerous. The people must be alert to their threats and provocations, the editorial says, adding that Godoy's statements prove that UNO is "already planning to disavow the people's will in the elections." The editorial further says that "UNO leaders must clarify once and for all if they are going to participate in the elections in a civilized manner."

The pro-government paper EL NUEVO DIARIO on pages 1 and 8 reports on statements by Raul Obregon, director of the ECO Polls Agency, who says that "even if all the undecided voters were to cast their votes for UNO, it still could not win." He claims that "Ortega has already surpassed 50 percent of the votes in the polls, according to our agency and to U.S. polls. Therefore, it is theoretically impossible for him to lose." Obregon also defends the U.S. UNIVISION poll results, which were refuted by the opposition.

On page 2, EL NUEVO DIARIO carries an article by Manuel Eugarrios criticizing the decision by the FSLN to pardon 1,150 contras and 39 former Somozist guardsmen. Eugarrios says that, as a party member, he must go along with the decision. However, he asks, "In exchange for these pardons, will the contras cease to murder our people? Will they release the thousands of people they are holding hostage? Will U.S. imperialism end its international campaign of discredit against our government? And finally, will President Bush respect the results of the 25 February elections?"

He goes on to praise Daniel Ortega's good faith in granting the pardons, but says that this act will not bring back to life the thousands of people killed by the contras.

The same paper, again on page 2, publishes an article by Jose Manuel Ruiz, who quotes recent statements by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. According to Ruiz, Baker said the United States will respect the results of the Nicaraguan elections if they are clean and honest. He says that "partly because of U.S. demands in Nicaragua there are international observers. The rules of the democratic game are being fully obeyed to such an extent that no one can deny the honesty of the elections." He said Secretary of State Baker's remarks should be a deciding factor for those people who until now are undecided as to whom to vote for.

The same paper on page 17 carries an article entitled "X-Ray of an Electoral Campaign." It gives details of the number of parties engaged in the campaign and the number of posts to be filled. After explaining the beginning and other details of the campaign, the article goes on to compare the two main candidates, Daniel Ortega and Violeta de Chamorro. It says that "the two candidates are exact opposites in sex, age, dynamics, presence, profile, and especially in political know-how." The article adds that she is sickly, while Ortega runs eight to 10 km every day. The article also points out that most polls favor Ortega.

Meanwhile, the FSLN afternoon newspaper LA TARDE on page 3 carries an editorial entitled "Silence Means Complicity." It comments on recent threats made by UNO leaders Virgilio Godoy and Alfredo Cesar, and claims that many opposition sectors have condemned these threats. The Episcopal Conference, the editorial states, has issued a communique saying that everyone must wait for the election results before passing judgment. Many people were surprised that even Ramiro Gurdian, a prominent opposition member famous for his verbal fury in the past, has asked for tolerance, the editorial goes on to say, and then adds that "to remain silent in the face of Godoy's and Cesar's threats is like being an accomplice in a campaign that might end up in acts of violence that we would all regret later."

The opposition newspaper LA PRENSA on pages 1 and 12 reports on statements by Edgard Quintana, head of the UNO Electoral Control Section. He says UNO has registered 7,326 poll watchers for the elections, but adds that UNO will not assign poll watchers to Regions One and Four because they are inside militarized areas.

UNO has asked international observers "to pay special attention to outlying rural areas because of the danger of arbitrary actions and repression such as occurred during the registration period," Quintana says, and then adds that UNO has already assigned about 95 percent of its poll watchers. He said the Supreme Electoral Council is going to publish the names of all the poll-watchers, stating: "However, we are fearing widespread intimidation, which will cause many poll watchers to resign at the last moment."

On page 2 LA PRENSA carries an editorial entitled "Words for a Stampede," referring to a speech Daniel Ortega delivered in Matagalpa. The editorial says Daniel Ortega, being president, should watch his words. In Matagalpa "he paints the future with the same dictatorial and oppressive colors of recent years, and brandishes threats of expropriation, jail, persecution, and mobs." The editorial says if the FSLN wins, there will be a stampede of people trying to get out of Nicaragua to flee the dictatorship. The editorial claims that "when Ortega delivers speeches, he should bear in mind that he is the president of Nicaragua, and he has no right to lose control and let himself be carried away by his emotions."

LA PRENSA on page 9 reports on a Daniel Ortega rally in Matagalpa on 14 February. According to the paper, the people of Matagalpa turned their backs on Ortega. The article claims Ortega used 200 trucks to bring people from other areas, saying that "the Sandinists brought people from Esteli, Jinotega, Las Segovias, and other places. They even brought a truck in which 23 people died in an accident. However, despite this, Ortega could not match the number of people who attended the UNO rally there last week."

The same paper on page 4 carries a Juigalpa-datelined article reporting that there are almost no buses left in the city because "the Transport Ministry has ordered the bus owners to place them at the disposal of the FSLN campaign director to drive forced demonstrators to the government rally in Boaco." According to the article, the Transport Ministry is also using state-owned trucks to carry demonstrators to the government rallies.

In a similar article, also on page 4 but datelined Managua, LA PRENSA again reports on the lack of buses resulting from FSLN campaign requirements. A local resident said that "what the Sandinists did to please Ortega is a violation of citizens rights, because they also forced government employees to go to the rally in Matagalpa in city buses, to make people believe that the FSLN has many followers." The article states that people have to wait for hours at the bus stops because of the lack of city buses.

20,000 Anti-Sandinists in Honduras Unable To Vote

PA1702201690 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2101 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 16 Feb (ACAN - EFE)—Approximately 20,000 anti-Sandinists over the age of 16 who live in Honduran territory on the border with Nicaragua will be left with only the desire to vote for opposition candidate Violeta de Chamorro because they were not registered in the electoral census, a rebel source reported today.

Contra spokesman Alejandro Acevedo told ACAN-EFE: "None of them will be able to vote because they did not register. These are votes that the National Opposition Union (UNO) has lost."

Acevedo argued that "the Sandinists never gave us real guarantees to register in the electoral census. Only the Nicaraguans who were vacationing or studying in Honduras were given to opportunity to register."

Nevertheless, the spokesman said that in the anti-Sandinist camps and the Nicaraguan refugee camps in Honduras, "the people are well informed about the electoral process and follow the news every day."

Among the contras, the majority favors candidate Violeta Chamorro, who is described as "the only candidate who deserves our trust."

Acevedo said the anti-Sandinists hope the opposition will win the 25 February elections, but he admitted that this is a "very difficult" possibility. The spokesman insisted that "Sandinist totalitarianism is not willing to give up the power it seized in 1979."

Acevedo reiterated that the contras will not carry out any military activity to sabotage the electoral process in the interior of Nicaragua.

Editorial Charges UNO With Electoral Violence

PA1802145290 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 15 Feb 90 p 2

[Editorial: "The Promoters of Violence"]

[Text] Over the past few days, and as the UNO's [National Opposition Union] propaganda balloon of an utopic victory deflates, the most radical sectors of that coalition seem determined to attempt to hinder the home stretch to the elections.

Reports of electoral violence, equally violent statements tinged with arrogance, as well as dangerous insinuations about the revolution's leadership are being spread by UNO spokesmen and media in a clear effort to hinder the elections.

These gentlemen accepted the rules of the electoral game and proclaimed themselves "champions of democracy," so their defiant and provocative attitude can only be interpreted as a desperate attempt—by individuals who know they have already lost—to hinder the elections, to renew excuses to justify continued mercenary violence, and to promote revanchism in order to foster confrontation, which at the same time would help hinder the elections.

The effort by the most radical groups in that alliance to discredit the work of observation missions from the United Nations and the OAS is part of the plan. Therefore, the ONUVEN [UN Observer Mission for the Verification of Elections in Nicaragua], in its third report, in a timely manner warned of the dangers of such behavior, which is aimed at making the election results appear illegitimate through charges of "irregularities" or any other fallacy they can think of.

What is most noteworthy is that while in the United States there is an ongoing discussion of an eventual change of policy toward Nicaragua in response to the evidence of a new Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] victory, in Managua the pro-American right wing seems determined to prevent this from happening.

More than "political strength"—which along with ethics and patriotism they never had—their insults eloquently express their weakness and exert pressure on the United States so that it will not alter its policies, because a normalization of relations between Washington and Managua would mean the end of their existence as a rented opposition.

Electoral violence—verbal, written, explicit, or implicit—responds precisely to that goal: to maintain their status quo as a domestic front for the imperialist aggression, which resulted in millions of dollars in profits for them during a decade of war, because so many of them were on the State Department payroll.

This is the reason for their renewed aggression. Violence—regardless of its form or content—only favors those who are still clinging to the war train, without a care for the bloodshed to which Nicaraguan society has been subjected, the victim of interventionist policies encouraged and applauded by those who place their position as rented opposition ahead of any other consideration that does not involve the continued protection of their selfish interests.

The Nicaraguan people, led by the FSLN, have offered eloquent proof of what they are capable of doing when it comes to defending their rights and accomplishments: We won two wars, against Somozist totalitarianism and against the mercenaries paid by the United States. If the right wing continues to promote violence, there will be no shortage of rifles to defeat them again. This, however, contradicts the Nicaraguans' deepest desires for peace and reconciliation, and the irresponsible adventurism of a few false democrats could sink our society into an unjustified and useless bloodbath.

Radio Cites Elliot Richardson on Elections

PA1702153890 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1202 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] Elliot Richardson, the personal representative of the UN secretary general, once again has said that the elections in Nicaragua are on the right course. At this point, I see no reason to believe that free and impartial elections will not be held in Nicaragua, Richardson said.

Richardson said that the ONUVEN [UN Observer Mission for the Verification of Elections in Nicaragua] is working in Nicaragua, along with the OAS and the Carter Center. He said that international coverage of the elections is so extensive that the final results of the elections cannot be questioned.

Richardson recently criticized U.S. statements that Washington will not be able to give its opinion regarding the Nicaraguan elections if it does not have its own observers in the field. Richardson said that this statement reflects an extraordinary lack of trust in the OAS, the ONUVEN, and in Jimmy Carter.

Richardson explained that, nevertheless, there will be approximately 12 U.S. congressmen observing the elections through the OAS. He wondered how the United States, after making an effort to destroy the Nicaraguan Government, can ask this country to receive a delegation unilaterally appointed by the United States.

Editorial Criticizes Ortega Comments on Polls

PA1702162990 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 13 Feb 90 pp 1, 12

[Editorial: "Ortega Seriously Violates Law"]

[Text] President Daniel Ortega took a false step today when he said that "two U.S. polls" have already predicted a Sandinist victory in the elections. In Ortega's opinion, therefore, any attempt to protest an electoral decision in favor of the Sandinists on 25 February will be considered an attempt to destabilize the electoral process.

Ortega made this statement while in the company of Defense Minister Humberto Ortega and Interior Minister Tomas Borge to emphasize that the public is behind this truly absurd premise and the conclusions that derive from it, which have been discussed with the cardinal [Miguel Obando y Bravo].

President Ortega was wrong, and I hope that the Supreme Electoral Council will admonish him for proclaiming that the results of two polls, whether they are U.S. polls or polls of any any other country, are enough to pass a final judgment on the 25 February elections.

This statement clearly violates the Electoral Law because it means that one of the leading parties participating in the elections is using the results of simple opinion polls to solemnly announce that the Sandinists have already won and that no one should protest when that announcement is made on 25 February. This clearly and purely constitutes coercion against the people. In fact, Ortega, of his own accord, wants from now on to answer the big question Nicaraguan voters must answer with their voter registration cards, and he is condemning in advance any protest that would naturally emerge if the Sandinists plan to perpetrate fraud during the elections.

The presence of the defense and interior ministers, I insist, was used by President Ortega to pass sentence against the Nicaraguan people: either they accept the results of the U.S. polls that he mentioned or face serious consequences.

Nothing could be more absurd. That would be like having the National Opposition Union (UNO) request that all members of the FSLN, led by President Ortega, immediately resign from their posts effective 1 April, because not two but half a dozen polls of all types conducted by professionals of well-known scientific capability have predicted a very broad opposition victory in the elections.

As the people say, President Ortega has put his foot in his mouth because he has attempted to use the respectable figure of Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo and has sought the Armed Forces' support in order to instill fear in the Nicaraguan people so that they will not protest if there is fraud, and so that from now on they will take a Sandinist victory for granted. A Sandinist victory seems impossible at this point because of the opposition's overwhelming electoral superiority.

The calm and silence Cardinal Obando displayed in response to this incredible statement by Ortega is understandable. As the country's top authority, Ortega should have said that the freely expressed popular vote will be the only decisive word on 25 February.

In a state of great panic over his upcoming electoral defeat, Ortega is attempting to overlook the fact that there are and will be a number of observers in the country who will have the final word regarding who won the elections, and whether or not the elections were truly clean and honest. Opinion polls offer nothing but insights into a much larger picture, which only the popular vote can fully define. Ortega has shown for the first time that the Sandinists are afraid to lose, and he fears that if the Sandinists perpetrate fraud the people will protest. The best thing Ortega can do if he does not want protests is, first of all, to prevent fraud.

Upcoming Elections To Test U.S. 'Sincerity'

PA1702200690 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 9 Feb 90 p 2

[Article by Monica Zalaquett: "Nicaragua and New U.S.- Latin American Relations"]

[Text] If the U.S. invasion of Panama revealed the worsening of the North - South conflict, which had been hiding behind decades of strident cold war rhetoric, the Nicaraguan elections will reveal to an expectant continent the sincerity of the U.S. democratic discourse or will confirm its decision to continue placing the use of force before the difficult excercise of reason.

Whether one agrees or disagrees with the Nicaraguan Sandinist movement, Nicaragua represents a great deal for Latin America because of its firm national defense and because it has questioned the effectiveness of using intervention as a doctrine. For Latin Americans, the Nicaraguan situation concerns not only sovereignty in respect to the principle of international relations but also self-determination in the increasingly desperate search for solutions to the present crisis.

Perhaps that is why envoy Quayle made such anxious attempts to convince the region that the invasion was not a U.S. policy but an exception to it. The United States' attachment to displays of force has been rejected outright by most Latin American nations as governments have not accepted the unusual excuses offered by the United States after the invasion of Panama.

The governments on the continent seemed to have agreed to respond to Quayle's arguments with the same words: We prefer facts and not rhetoric. This demonstrates that over the short term the most eloquent "fact" would be for the U.S. Government to respect a possible Sandinist election victory in Nicaragua. In addition to this, the United States could end its war policy against our country, normalize diplomatic relations, and lift the economic sanctions.

The "Panama case" has been viewed by the Latin American nations as a slap in the face and a continuation of the policy of force and pressure. Under a worst-case scenario, a military intervention in Nicaragua would cause a disruption of unforeseeable consequences in relations between the United States and the rest of the continent.

In the 1990's, the current crisis will sink some 10 million Central Americans—who represent 40 percent of the Central American countries' population—into extreme poverty, according to a study conducted by the International Commission for the Development and Recovery of Central America. Meanwhile, the international prices of the area's basic export products continue to plunge.

At the end of 1989, the GNP for the continent was eight percent lower than what it was at the beginning of the decade. The Economic Commission for Latin America has warned that "in 1989 most of the Latin American and Caribbean countries, after nine years of efforts, apparently have reached the limit of their ability to make adjustments based on their current productive structures."

One would not be exaggerating in saying that a continuation of a policy of force and blackmail on a continent that is suffocating and that has no alternatives would be disastrous any way we look at it, disastrous for the United States, which is finding it increasingly difficult to justify and finance its interventions, and for the Latin American people, who want to find peaceful solutions to their grave economic and social problems.

We should recall Latin America's concern about events that developed in Nicaragua and Central America. The Contadora Group, and later the Group of Eight, expressed its concern with the intense efforts made at the height of the counterrevolutionary war. It was also noticeable from the positions taken by the Economic Community for Latin America and the United Nations at the time of the recent invasion of Panama. Latin Americans clearly showed their desire to reject an interventionist doctrine—in a world leaning toward detente—with diplomatic and political efforts.

The Latin American governments' participation in the search for peaceful solutions to conflicts that are increasingly numerous on the continent cannot be separated from the economic crisis and its most brutal expression: foreign debt. It also should not be separated from the fact that every day it becomes more difficult to have hopes for an understanding with a neighbor who will not agree to be Latin America's partner in its drive for development. The United States is not willing to allow structural changes that are demanded by nations that are wallowing in desperation.

In this context, Nicaragua is viewed today as a test case on whether a better understanding between the United States and Latin America will develop, whether battered relations with the United States will improve, and, most important, how the northern power will act when confronted with new and imminent social outbursts resulting from the crisis.

All this depends on the U.S. reaction to the Nicaraguan elections. Its reaction should be to place a final period on an era of military intervention on the continent. This response will give Latin America clear signals regarding the United States' future policy toward the region south of the Rio Grande, and it will let Latin America know whether it can expect advances or estrangement in finding a way out of our maze of problems.

A change of attitude by the United States toward Nicaragua would be understood as a significant positive gesture toward reaching an understanding to confront very complicated challenges that are to be confronted simultaneously. These are: the defense of the democratic systems, the reconstruction of the state, the struggle against inflation, the return of growth, the generation of jobs and foreign exchange, the protection of our economies against protectionist policies of large economic blocs, overcoming technological backwardness, and—on top of all this—the payment of our foreign debt, which is not larger than the social debt that we owe our peoples.

Editorial Urges 'Respect' for Election Results

PA1802183690 Managua LA TARDE in Spanish 14 Feb 90 p 3

[Editorial: "Let's Respect the Rules of the Game"]

[Text] We should all be concerned about the mere possibility that there are groups interested in creating violence to disavow the results of the elections.

Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo and the Supreme Electoral Council [CSE], through this newspaper, have issued appeals to moderate statements and to avoid actions that might tarnish the electoral process.

LA PRENSA recently published interviews with people who are involved in destroying Sandinist Front campaign propaganda. The only thing missing in that report was a call to its readers to imitate those who, violating electoral ethics, commit acts that our laws establish to be a crime.

Everyone participates in elections to win. However, as part of democratic interplay, one must also know how to lose.

Just 11 days before the elections, the Sandinist Front's lead over its adversaries is evident. There should not now be an attempt to disavow the election results in the face of the evident defeat of the opposition.

The rules of the game must be respected. They were established by common agreement between the Sandinist Front and the opposition and have been zealously implemented by the CSE under the scrutiny of the United Nations and the OAS.

Sandinists Termed 'Supporters of Perestroyka'

PA1902184590 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 15 Feb 90 p 5

[Article by Adolfo Miranda Saenz]

[Text] Perestroyka began in the Soviet Union with Mikhail Gorbachev; however, it developed so quickly in East Europe that the Soviets were left behind. The reason for this is that the USSR is a very large country and its bureaucracy and structural problems are also of huge dimensions. The Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) also has very large and cumbersome machinery that is difficult to move. However, in the past few days, the USSR, the CPSU, and Mikhail Gorbachov have finally taken major steps to advance perestroyka in that country. These steps have again placed them at the head of socialist reforms.

The Soviet communists made a decision at the highest level to start a reform process that will lead to the elimination of the single-party concept, which had given the CPSU an indisputable vanguard and leadership position in society. Reforms made, such as, among others, opening society to a multiparty system and political pluralism; the establishment of democratic means for the election of party leaders; and the establishment of a system to elect the USSR president through direct vote will evidently allow Soviet perestroyka to spread further.

Gorbachev has said: "The CPSU is willing to act based on these new circumstances and to cooperate and talk with all organizations .... This process may also lead to the formation of new parties at a certain point.... The CPSU proposes to compete for its position as governing party, but within the strict framework of a democractic process, and to renounce any legal or political advantage."

However, the most important thing Gorbachev said was: "The party has to renounce ideological dogmatism that has become entrenched after decades, that has led to old cliches in domestic policy, and to old-style criteria about the world's revolutionary process and the world's development in general."

The reforms that were promoted and that gained momentum during the last CPSU Central Committee plenum are not only political but also involve profound economic reforms: New laws allow types of private and collective productive property, including land. Development according to market laws and other criteria aim at better economic development in the USSR.

Two types of statements are frequently made in our country on these reforms and in general on changes in the socialist world. One is that the USSR and remaining East European countries are becoming capitalistic. The other is that in Nicaragua we are not living in a country where democracy and new socialist trends are practiced and that instead we have a Stalinist system.

Regarding the first assertion, Gorbachev, in referring to the socialist world's changes in general, has said that it is "a common cause," stressing that perestroyka is "the renewal of the socialist state."

Yegor Stroyev, one of the secretaries of the CPSU Central Committee, said in this regard that "first of all, the plenum reaffirmed our party's fidelity to the policy of reforms, fidelity to the ideas of Marx-Engels-Lenin and the socialist way of development. That is the starting point." He added: "In addition, we stress that the party is doing away with past stereotypes and supporting the progressive ideas of other socialist trends, such as the Social Democratic parties of the world."

Mikhail Ul'yanov, a member of the CPSU Central Review Commission, said: "...we need a profound renewal of all our country's political and economic structures. In particular, we must implement different forms of property in the USSR. The party has thus managed to free itself of obsolete stereotypes and to listen to the peoples' call in the search for a new life."

Returning to CPSU Central Committee Secretary Yegor Stroyev, it is truly interesting to note the statement of such an important Soviet communist leader: "After much discussion we have formulated the following idea: The CPSU does not believe that individual and collective productive property will not be at odds with the country's current stage of development, if exploitation of man by man exists." [sentence as published]

It is quite clear then that perestroyka does not mean abandoning socialism for capitalism; instead, it is a renewed, humanistic, democratic socialism that is especially antidogmatic.

As for Nicaragua, it is about time something is said to counter so many absurd remarks that are being made out of ignorance or in bad faith. President Daniel Ortega and other Sandinist leaders have frankly said that the Sandinist National Liberation Front is socialist and that at the same time it upholds the principles of political pluralism and mixed economy. Is that not the same thing that the European socialist countries are doing with perestroyka?

Where is there evidence of dictatorship or Stalinism in Nicaragua? If Nicaragua had a Stalinist regime, those who made such remarks would be in jail and not free to talk. Besides, we would not be going though an electoral process as we are doing now.

As for the economic aspect, do we not have free commerce? In Nicaragua, the economy is ruled by the laws of the market, and our country is opening—as never before—to private domestic or foreign investments with full respect for our sovereignty.

Of course, these steps are being taken without forgetting the Stalinist principles and, therefore, with the purpose of helping the poor.

Thus, it would be good if such remarks were no longer made, as those who make them are being ridiculous. The Sandinists have shown that they are enthusiastic supporters of perestroyka.

Panama

Endara Views American Newspaper Article, Aid

PA1602190590 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1546 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Report by Antonio Martinez]

[Text] Panama City, 16 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—President Guillermo Endara denied today that he has any ties to drug trafficking and described as "very unfair" an article published in "THE NEW YORK TIMES" accusing him of managing a bank that was used to "launder" dollars.

During an exclusive interview with ACAN-EFE, Endara said that Panamanian democracy could be "thwarted" if international aid fails to arrive soon, and added that he will not negotiate the canal treaties or new U.S. military bases.

The president rejected the possibility of calling elections or a plebiscite, as requested by some of his colleagues in the continent, and did not rule out the possibility of granting a pardon or amnesty for the followers of toppled dictator Manuel Antonio Noriega who are charged with political crimes, but "not for criminals or torturers."

As for an article published last week by "THE NEW YORK TIMES," Endara said that he has been on the board of directors of the Banco Interoceanico de Panama in the capacity of secretary since 1972. However, he clarified that his is not an executive position and he has never had anything to do with handling money.

The president underscored the fact that he has never had any ties, "not even remotely, to any misdeed and much less drugs."

Endara also described as "unfair" a "NEW YORK TIMES" article stating that the Panamanian financial center is using "secret banking" laws to shelter the "laundering" of drug-trafficking money. "There is no such secret banking in Panamanian legislation. Coded accounts could be considered the most secretive instruments, and even those are subjected to articles that leave the door wide open to prosecutors and judicial investigators," the president added.

According to Endara, his government is fighting drug trafficking, and to that effect he has turned into law the "self-regulation" of banks, which obliges them to report the origin of the money and the identity of its depositor in any transaction involving more than $10,000 in cash.

Endara attributes the article in the New York newspaper, which was published when the U.S. Congress was debating aid for Panama, "to a lobby (pressure group) that is defending another country that could be affected by a diversion of U.S. aid to Panama."

"I am only speculating, but I see no other explanation for such a harmful and unfair article," Endara added.

In another part of his interview with ACAN-EFE, Endara said his greatest concern is that the "democratization process" in Panama might "fail should we not get the aid we need."

He said, "We Panamanians need economic aid from the United States, from the European countries, from Japan. We need political aid and solidarity from our friends in Latin America, and it does not arrive. We receive signals that the aid is coming, but that is all. It does not arrive."

He added, "I do not want this process toward democracy and freedom to be thwarted. The people want democracy. However, if democracy does not work, we will have a terrible failure. It is my greatest concern, and I have to see that we get aid."

Regarding the report that Panama will renegotiate the 1977 Panama Canal Treaties and the maintaining of military bases in Panama after the expiration date of the treaties (31 December 1999), Endara said that his government has no such thing in mind.

Endara said, "For a long time I have been saying that there will be no renegotiation of the treaties. Besides, we should not even mention that in these moments. The year 2000 is a long time away, and it will be up to the next government to attend to that problem, if it so wishes. However, during my administration that problem will not be broached."

Regarding the suggestion made by U.S. Vice President Quayle and several Latin American presidents that new elections or a plebiscite should be held in Panama, Endara said that he does not see "why any president of any country should meddle in this matter."

According to Endara, "on 7 May the Panamanian people made their decision categorically," giving the present government 70 percent of the votes. Besides, recent polls "have revealed that the people do not want new elections."

He said that the support he received in the May elections "was so great, so categorical, that no president in America has a clearer mandate than we do. I do not see why anyone should question it." In another part of his interview with ACAN-EFE, Endara said that he does not discard granting a pardon or amnesty to Noriega followers who committed "eminently political crimes," but this pardon or amnesty would in no way include those people accused of murder, torture, and other crimes.

Endara said, "I am not proposing it now. However, I do not discard it." He explained, for example, that he does not believe that all those who in August signed the decree appointing Francisco Rodriguez as provisional president should go to jail.

He said, "It was an abominable act from the democratic point of view, and it falls within the limits of the Penal Code, but it is a strictly political act, and in this case I do not exclude the amnesty."

Endara Urges Work, Reconciliation for Recovery

PA1602151990 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] President Guillermo Endara has remarked that the government's number one priority is the unemployment problem and that it will try to solve it with a short-term economic program.

[Begin recording] [Endara] We need the support of all citizens. This does not mean political support or applause, but support in the sense of work and determination to make Panama move forward. As far as we are concerned, we will make every effort to have the economic assistance required to implement this plan arrive here soon. We are prepared to work with foreign countries, or foreign powers like the United States and Europe—France, Germany, Britain, and all of them, like Spain, which have offered to assist us—as well as Japan and China, for them to contribute to this major national reconstruction plan, the centerpiece of which is an increase in jobs.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr. President, it is being said in certain political circles that there is a scramble for positions, for political opportunities, in the government at this moment.

[Endara] That is not true. It is not true. The ministries are working the way they must. They are in the hands of persons who are highly qualified for their positions and have a great patriotic spirit. There are personnel from all parties in all ministries. I personally demand that the ministers appoint people from the various parties and that they perforce include independents in lists, too. There are no such things as political opportunities in this government. There is no such thing as a scramble. I would stop it if it existed anywhere.

[Reporter] Will there be a reconciliation with enemies from the former military regime?

[Endara] One of this government's tenets is that it will achieve reconstruction on the basis of national reconciliation. Of course, this means with justice. Any cases that have to be settled through justice will be settled through justice. However, this has to be on the basis of reconciliation among Panamanians.

[Reporter] Will the U.S. forces that are stationed here continue patrolling jointly with the Public Force?

[Endara] The U.S. military presence will gradually be made less evident. This is the policy that has been clearly agreed to between the U.S. and Panamanian Governments. [end recording]

Endara denied that there is any division among Arnulfists.

[Begin Endara recording] As was the case when Dr. Arias was alive, this matter of a division is false. The true doctrine... [changes thought] Dr. Arias' true followers are still grouped under one party. [end recording]

Endara Plays Down Differences Within ADOC

PA1602155690 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 12 Feb 90 p 1

[Report by Manuel Alvarez Cedeno]

[Text] President Guillermo Endara has admitted the existence of "conflicts and competition" within the parties comprising the ADOC [Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance]. However, he stressed that this situation does not affect the government, where there is great cooperation in reconstructing the country.

"In life there are always competition, conflicts, and cooperation," Endara said yesterday as he was leaving the Cristo Rey Church, in response to a LA PRENSA question about rumors that are circulating on alleged differences among the ADOC parties.

Endara said that there is a great deal of cooperation within ADOC to work toward the country's reconstruction. However, he added that "logically there is always competition among human beings, as well as within parties and among parties, which is healthy."

Some sectors not linked to the government have contended that the ADOC parties—PDC [Christian Democratic Party], Molirena [Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement], and PLA [Liberal Authentic Party]—have fallen into the same fight for political positions for which they had strongly criticized the parties that supported the military regime.

"A sense of coalition prevails within the ADOC, and this can be seen through the presidential slate that won the past elections. We have remained united, despite the many differences that may exist because of competition among our respective parties."

Endara said: Arias Calderon, Ford, and I "are strongly united," because we struggled together as brothers, and, furthermore, "how could I forget that the people supported the three of us?"

Endara added: "There are no disagreements that could hinder the government's work. There are no such disagreements. Any conflict that may exist reflects the normal competition that exists among people and social groups. Cooperation is what prevails here." Regarding the recognition of the government by Latin American countries, Endara said that "we have already noticed some signs of rapprochement from various countries that are beginning to realize that the Panamanian people are living in democracy and freedom, which is what Latin American countries really wanted."

He added that some governments in the region "were shocked by the U.S. intervention, but are beginning to realize that the Panamanian people are living in a democracy."

A month ago, the Peruvian foreign minister accused Endara of being the "Judas of the Americas" for taking power through a U.S. invasion.

"I believe that the Latin American governments that originally opposed the government are seeking formulas to reverse their position, although some times it is difficult for politicians to take back their words," Endara noted.

Rector Protests Entry of U.S. Troops on Campus

PA1602170190 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 14 Feb 90 p 7A

[Letter from University of Panama Rector Abdiel Adames to Government and Justice Minister Ricardo Arias Calderon; dated 12 February]

[Text] Dear Mr. Minister:

I am writing this letter to convey to the national government, through you, the concern of the University of Panama over the incident that took place this afternoon, on 12 February, when U.S. Army trucks entered the university campus several times, generating protests from the students, professors, and employees of the university.

The incident began at 1600, when a U.S. military vehicle showed up on Octavio Mendez Pereira Avenue and parked in front of the Community Affairs Office. This led the students who were there to protest, and a bitter argument ensued between the university students, who demanded that the troops withdraw, and the latter, who claimed to have no knowledge of the constitutional process establishing the university's autonomy.

As you will understand, Your Excellency, these incidents are a source of great concern to the rector's office because this may lead to unpredictable and regrettable situations.

Since classes at the university will resume soon, we feel that this type of military incursion onto university grounds and premises is highly dangerous.

[No signature as published]

Ministry Announces U.S. Troops Reduced to 13,600

PA1902221290 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 17 Feb 90 p 2A sb
[Communique issued by the Foreign Ministry in Panama City on 16 February]

[Text] The Foreign Relations Ministry wishes to inform the diplomatic missions accredited to the Government of the Republic of Panama and the Panamanian diplomatic missions abroad that the U.S. presence in Panama has been reduced to 13,600 troops.

As is publicly known, the U.S. Southern Command announced yesterday the withdrawal of all the troops who had come to Panama to participate in Operation "Just Cause," and the U.S. Southern Command announcement added that only the 13,600 troops stationed in Panama before the operation was launched will remain in Panama.

His Excellency Guillermo Endara Galimany, president of the Republic, has said repeatedly that the national government and the Panamanian people want to establish a great democracy in Panama where we can live in freedom and justice—something that is actually taking place in a decisive way—and where Panama can exercise the powers that result from its independence.

The aforementioned statements clearly show that the government headed by Guillermo Endara Galimany is in the position to express to the international community that it has the capacity to exercise the rights resulting from its sovereignty, such as the effective control over its territory and the fulfillment of international obligations.

Cabinet Decree Number 38 Creates Public Force

PA1602230690 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 14 Feb 90 p 9A

[Text of Decree Number 38 approved by the Cabinet Council in Panama City on 10 February]

[Text] Whereas:

The overwhelming majority of the people are clamoring for the abolition of the national army and the removal of militarism and its sequels of violations of human rights, repression against the people, disrespect for the will of the people and democratic institutions contained in our Constitution, and excessive burdens on the public treasury;

The Panamanian state is duty-bound to protect the lives, honor, and property of its citizens wherever they may be and of foreigners living under its jurisdiction, and to guarantee public security and national defense.

Article 1. The Public Force of the Panamanian State is organized to bear the technical and legal responsibility for public security and national defense. The Public Force is directly subordinate to the executive branch and its actions will adhere to the Constitution and the laws of the Republic, fully respecting human rights, to protect and support democratic institutions.

Article 2. The president of the Republic is the supreme chief of the Public Force, over which he will enforce his authority through decrees, regulations, orders, and instructions. It is for the president alone to oversee the preservation of public order. With the participation of the appropriate minister, he will appoint and remove chiefs, officers, and members of the Public Force; make promotions based on the respective wage and rank scale; and give instructions as to the use of the Public Force.

Article 3. Each member of the Public Force will take an oath before assuming his duties, and when the president of the Republic so deems it necessary, it will be as follows:

"I swear to God and the fatherland that I will loyally obey, under the authority of the president of the Republic, the Constitution and Panamanian laws in defense of democracy."

Any Public Force member who does not profess any religion may omit the mention of God in his oath.

Article 4. Until its charter is approved, the Public Force will consist of the National Police, a National Air Service, and a National Maritime Service, with separate commands and wage and rank scales, under the authority and subordination of the executive branch directly through the Government and Justice Ministry.

The Government and Justice Ministry will oversee work to inspect these divisions and the coordination of operations among them.

Article 5. The National Jail System will be a division of the Government and Justice Ministry and will operate according to existing laws until its charter is approved.

The National Department of Investigations will henceforth be called the Judicial Technical Police, and will be temporarily assigned to the Government and Justice Ministry and operate according to existing laws until its charter is approved.

Article 6. The National Police, as the government's agent, will protect the lives, honor, and goods of the population; will maintain security and public order and prevent illegal actions; will cooperate with the Republic's authorities to ensure individual and social rights and duties; will support authorities and other public employees in fulfilling their duties; and will direct vehicle traffic on public roads according to the law and traffic regulations.

The National Police chiefs assigned to the different provinces in the country will occupy that position in strict rotation not to exceed two years.

Article 7. With the approval of the president of the Republic and the government and justice minister, special units can be organized in the National Police to guard the country's borders and protect the integrity of the national territory; to protect the Panama Canal, according to the 1977 Canal Treaties and in compliance with Foreign Ministry guidelines on interpretation of these treaties; and to safeguard and support the democratic institutions included in the Constitution. These units will be organized in such a way so they can be separated from the National Police, if the law so determines.

Article 8. The National Police will act with due consultation and coordination with civilian authorities at a provincial, municipal, and corregimiento level. As the government's agent, the National Police will obey orders issued by the government in excercising its legal functions.

Article 9. The National Air Service will have specific air transportation duties in support of government agencies, socioeconomic development projects promoted by the national government, National Police functions, and search and rescue and evacuation activities in case of air, maritime, or natural disasters.

Article 10. The National Maritime Service will have specific sea transportation duties in support of government agencies, socioeconomic development projects promoted by the national government, National Police functions, and search and rescue and evacuation activities in case of air, maritime, or natural disasters. It will also function as a maritime police force, particularly in preventing piracy, illegal fishing, contraband, and illegal immigration, and in support of the corresponding authorities.

Article 11. The total number of Public Force members will not exceed a percentage of the population as determined by the corresponding organic law. In case of war or serious public disorder requiring immediate measures, the executive branch may decree a temporary increase in the number of members. This measure will be subject to corresponding approval by the legislative branch within a period of 30 calendar days after its implementation.

The legislative branch will approve the total number of Public Forces each year with the approval of the nation's general budget.

Article 12. The Comptroller General's Office will be in charge of controlling and supervising the budgeted funds assigned for the various Public Force services as part of the corresponding ministry's overall budget.

Article 13. Seniority and retirement benefits earned by former members of the extinct Defense Forces are recognized in favor of those who join the various services of the new Public Force. Public Force members affected by the termination of service will have a right to retire after completing 25 years of active service if approved by the president of the Republic at the request of the corresponding minister.

Article 14. An interministerial committee headed by the Government and Justice Ministry and including the Ministries of Finance and Treasury and the Presidency is hereby established to determine what is to be done with the properties of the extinct Defense Forces, or their use by the Public Force or any other government branch or institution.

Article 15. The Public Force is not a deliberating institution and in no case will its members participate in political activities, with the exception of voting. Public Force commanders and officers will not exert any kind of pressures on its members during elections. Consequently, they will not participate in any political activity or belong to any political party, or make any statement in favor of a specific party or political group while on active service. In addition, they cannot be in any government position, act as directors or members of directorates that are unrelated to the Public Force service to which they belong, with the exception of regulations contained in International Treaties and future laws.

Article 16. A public security and national defense presidential advisory corps will be formed and has been named the Public Security and National Defense Council [Consejo de Seguridad Publica y Defensa Nacional]. This council will be headed by the president of the Republic and formed by the ministers of government and justice, foreign relations, and planning and economic policies. Whenever it is considered necessary, council members will request and be advised by the different public forces chiefs. The president of the Republic will designate an executive secretary for this organization. The executive secretary is to keep the president informed of public security and national defense matters and will prepare pertinent documents for the council's agenda.

Article 17. All dispositions that, in prior laws, decrees, and regulations, go against what has been decided by the present Cabinet decree are hereby invalidated.

Article 18. For the sake of public order and social interest, this decree shall be implemented retroactively as of 22 December 1989.

To be communicated, published, and implemented; Given in Panama City, on 10 February 1990.

Viability of CIA-Sponsored Coup Reviewed

PA1702024690 Panama City EL PERIODICO in Spanish Edition No.3 Feb 90 p 5

[Text] Insistent rumors about a CIA-sponsored coup d'etat are frightening the community, which cannot take it any longer.

A report on this was included in an anonymous article published by a pro-government newspaper. Nevertheless, certain political analysts are afraid that this might be more than a simple rumor because, they say, this could become a viable way to pull the chestnuts out of the fire for the North Americans who invaded Panama.

A bloodless coup d'etat could help create a transition government that would call for new elections. These new elections would make it possible to attenuate international criticism and the United States' increasing discredit before the international community. Likewise, the source added, the coup would rid President Bush of the heavy pressure exerted by groups within the United States who oppose the invasion, and whose number has increased given the delicate case about the alleged links that the rulers imposed by the U.S. troops on 20 December have with the laundering of drug money.

The situation would be more pathetic if it turned out that the current government is a narco-democratic government, because it would preclude U.S. aid for the alleged reconstruction of Panama.

The coup is viable as a political operation that would lead to new elections in Panama. As far as our editors are concerned, this is only a rumor but, where there is smoke, there is fire....

Columnist Views Slow Justice, Lack of Information

PA1602160790 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 14 Feb 90 p 4

[From the "Period...And That's It" column by Jaime Ortega: "What Is Happening?"]

[Text] Where is justice? Where is a fully comprised legislative branch? Why have not all the enemies of our new democracy been fired from their posts? What type of real and effective aid in U.S. dollars are we receiving? Have all the key figures been sent to jail? When will the Official Gazette start operating? Well, these questions—and thousands of others—are being asked by the Panamanian people every day but we get no reply. The country expected that by now justice would have safely put away—duly tried, of course—at least 1,000 or 2,000 of the most noticeable accomplices of Noriega, the crafty assassin. But...no! Our justice is as deficient as always.

The Panamanians expected a totally organized democracy with a duly comprised legislative branch. But...no! The legislators' proclamations are going so slowly that it will take until the year 2000. The homeland expected the government to dismiss several thousand of our democracy's enemies from their posts in the government agencies. But...no! We are still waiting. And...what is worse, some of them have improved their posts and salaries, as if nothing had happened here!

The North Americans have confessed that the monster is a prisoner of war and, therefore, it was an act of war rather than an act of good faith. What kind of aid are they giving us to replace the hundreds of thousands in losses suffered by the country, which is not responsible for this? The Panamanians want our government to speak clearly! How many decrees has the executive branch issued that the country does not know about? Watch it, we do not need any more early morning coups, because we now have democracy, and you are the custodians of this dear and precious treasure by the will of all Panama. What is happening? The spark plugs of the government machinery are failing because the car of democracy has not fully rolled out. We understand that we have only had two months of democracy, but the country demands more, and you have to give more. The minister of government and justice is apparently the one who establishes the norms, issues decrees, etc., but this is not possible. This is a task that belongs to all, and you must all share the grave responsibility you have assumed. I assume that you are doing it, but we want to know it. Everyone who is in charge of a key position must report, at least once a week, the progress achieved in his activities—and I say once a week so we do not get bored of watching your faces on television. I do not understand what is happening. You, Mr. President, must tell us every month—through a press, radio, and television news conference—how things are going, how the ship you are guiding has advanced. This and thousands of other questions would be answered if you do it. Put your chief of information in the Presidency to work, and you will see the fruits and gratitude of a noble people who wish you the best. If you do not do it, neither I nor the country will understand what is happening.

Period...and that's it.

Office Against Drug Trafficking To Be Created

PA1602173890 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0207 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] Panama City, 13 Feb (DPA)—Ramon Lima, deputy government and justice minister, announced today that the Panamanian Government plans to establish a "powerful" central office against drug trafficking with U.S. support.

According to Lima, the office will have the functions of a "special force" and will receive direct support from the Presidency. Its personnel will be from the Health, Education, and Government and Justice Ministries, the Attorney General's Office, and the Judicial Technical Police, and it will be trained in the United States.

The official said that to prevent information from being leaked when raids are carried out, the office will be "independent" to act and request help from other police agencies.

Lima also disclosed that the office will be supplied with laboratories and the necessary equipment to control drug trafficking by ship, plane, or other means in Panama.

Lima announced that the Panamanian Government plans to write into law an interbank agreement that prohibits banks operating in the country from receiving cash deposits for more than $100,000 from clients or third persons involved in an account.

Ramon Lima explained that such a law aims to prevent banks from continuing to accept "funds stemming from drug trafficking."

Former Exile Warns FDP Members 'Lie in Wait'

PA1602155990 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 14 Feb 90 p 22

[Text] "The Panama Defense Forces [FDP] were not dismantled in Panama; those who sowed terror in the streets, bringing suffering to the Panamanian people, are still in Panama," it was categorically stated 13 February by Dr. Carlos Young Adames, one of Dr. Arnulfo Arias Madrid's closest collaborators.

Young Adames was Arnulfo Arias' personal doctor for many years and lived in exile in the United States, from where he arrived in Panama on 10 February.

Arias Madrid's collaborator emphatically stated his views on the dismantled FDP's future.

"Militarism is not compatible with democracy because militarism is the result of oppression, terror, and disputes," it was stated by Young, who led a motorcade in which thousands of Panamanians went to the Presidency, where they paid their respects to the president of the Republic.

Referring to the creation of a new Public Force with members of Noriega's militarist regime, Young said that "they" (the police) "will lie in wait to become what they were in the past. Today they are very quiet but at the first opportunity, they will believe they are in power.

The Panamenist leader's statements contradict those of leading people who advocate creating the Public Force with former battalion members and members of the Norieguist army.

Argentina

Cabinet Affirms 'Full Support' of Economic Plan

PY1702012090 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2317 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Feb (TELAM)—Presidential spokesman Humberto Toledo has reported that the Cabinet, which is meeting at Government House, has reasserted "its full support" for the economic program.

In a bulletin issued a few minutes after 2030 in the press room, Toledo said "the Cabinet is discussing socioeconomic issues." He added that "the economy minister delivered an extensive report on the financial situation."

Attending the meeting are the members of the Cabinet, with the exception of Labor Minister Jorge Triaca; Vice President Eduardo Duhalde; Senate Provisional President Eduardo Menem; Buenos Aires Governor Antonio Cafiero, who is also Justicialist Party president; Buenos Aires Mayor Carlos Grosso; and Jose Luiz Manzano, Justicialist Party leader in the Chamber of Deputies.

Also present are the following secretaries: Planning Secretary Moises Ikonicoff, Public Affairs Secretary Gustavo Belize, Presidential Household General Secretary Alberto Kohan, State Intelligence Secretary Hugo Anzorregui, Press and Broadcasting Secretary Fernando Niembro, Legal and Technical Secretary Raul Granillo Ocampo, and Labor Secretary Rodolfo Diaz.

Official Denies Rumors of Cabinet Resignations

PY1702025890 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2042 GMT 16 Feb 90

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Feb (NA)—Presidential General Secretary Alberto Kohan today stated that "no one in the Cabinet has resigned." He thus categorically denied persistent rumors stating that Roberto Dromi, the public works and services minister; Jorge Triaca, labor and social security minister; and Eduardo Bauza, the public health and social action minister had tendered their resignations.

[Words indistinct] since yesterday" stated that "these repeated rumors are denied by the facts. It is time for people to be aware that these rumors only benefit a few and that they harm the great majority [words indistinct]."

Kohan, who talked to NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS, attributed to "these and other rumors" the rise in the dollar rate, which in the last 48 hours increased to [words indistinct] and caused a hike in prices of virtually all products, particularly food.

Kohan thus denied increasing rumors that forecast a somber future. In addition to the Cabinet resignations, these rumors also stated that there will be a bank and exchange holiday on 19 February and that the Finance Ministry will issue new economic measures over the weekend.

Within this context of persistent and contradictory rumors, which as of yesterday afternoon and today created an atmosphere of great confusion, NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS has been able to gather the following reliable information from official sources:

President Carlos Menem and (?his entire) Cabinet are determined to continue implementing the current economic program, which is characterized by a privatization process and a free-market economy.

Within this framework, it has been confirmed today that the free-exchange policy for foreign currency will continue to be implemented.

However, there have been persistent reports that the central bank will establish a series of regulations to "control" the currency market "but this does not mean that the free-exchange system will be undermined."

The control to be enforced on the purchase and sale of currency consists only in identifying the buyers and the sellers. This information will be submitted daily to the central bank.

Within a few days, the government will implement a "selective and drastic" decrease of import tariffs to allow the import of foodstuffs and staples at lower prices than those in the local market.

During the Cabinet meeting, Menem had allegedly been categorical in informing the Cabinet that "the government will act with firmness" in the face of those attitudes that may harm the juridical framework, without consideration of who adopts such attitudes. As an example of this decision, the government mentioned its decision to mobilize SUPE [United Trade Union of State Petroleum Workers] workers in case the trade union headed by Diego Ibanez had not respected the court decision declaring the strike illegal as reported on [passage indistinct].

Given the government's decision to "act with firmness," Interior Minister Julio Mera Figueroa's statements of today must also be taken into consideration. He said that "the government has not ruled out the intervention of the public forces" to dislodge from the Mortgage Bank branches employees who have occupied the buildings since learning they would be closed down.

The government "is not working on any new economic plan," although it has been admitted that measures to strengthen the current policy are being prepared to try to eliminate the unwanted effects of some measures that have already been adopted."

The government will try to improve on the process to seek a social-economic consensus, although it admits "not having found much goodwill among the business sectors."

The government also intends to make progress in seeking a political pact with the inclusion of the Radical Civic Union Party, and all the parties represented in Congress.

Interior Minister Said To Resign

PY1902202890 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1920 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Feb (NA)—A reliable source said today that Interior Minister Julio Mera Figueroa reportedly submitted a handwritten resignation at 1800 yesterday. After two unsuccessful attempts to contact him by phone this morning, President Carlos Menem summoned him for an afternoon meeting to persuade him not to resign.

The source indicated that Mera Figueroa resigned after a heated argument with Public Works and Services Minister Roberto Dromi about the sensitive corruption issue during a 16 February cabinet meeting.

It has also been learned that Deputy Jose Luis Manzano, chief of the Justicialist bloc in the Chamber of Deputies, reportedly said that Mera Figueroa's resignation would be very inconvenient for the government. An Interior Ministry spokesman said that Mera Figueroa would be willing to withdraw his resignation if Minister Dromi was removed.

Menem Asks Minister To Remain

PY1902214990 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2120 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Feb (NA)—Interior Minister Julio Mera Figueroa said this afternoon that he will continue as interior minister on the expressed request of President Carlos Menem, who did not accept his resignation. Mera also categorically denied that the government plans to enforce a state of siege.

Mera made these comments during a news conference at Government House.

Economy Minister Reads New Economic Measures

PY1902151090 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color Network in Spanish 2142 GMT 18 Feb 90

[News conference by Economy Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez and Public Health and Social Action Minister Eduardo Bauza at Government House with unidentified moderator and reporters—live; monitored in progress]

[Text] [Gonzalez] ...hold meetings almost constantly to discuss the behavior of our economy, seek solutions, seek the mechanisms or tools that may help perfect the economic program implemented by the government and correct the distortions and difficulties that lately—and especially during this past week—have brought great unrest to the entire country.

We want to inform you that these cabinet meetings, these working meetings, are not necessarily being held to come up with spectacular measures, measures that may entail a change of course or policy. As we said before, they are held to try to solve the difficulties that appear every day, to try to harmonize all the government polices and programs in these and other fields.

This time we have basically focused our attention on the fiscal conduct that the state must modify to achieve certain basic goals and to quickly overcome the crisis and resume the path toward growth and a productive revolution.

For this we need to implement concrete measures that show the government is not only firm in its policies, but that it is determined to adopt the necessary measures to speed up this process and prepare the necessary conditions for recovery and resumption of the productive process.

I am going to read some of these measures, by area, dealing with fiscal policy. I will first read those related to the central administration and the budget. Second, I will read measures related to tax policy, measures that will speed up and improve tax collection. Third, I will read measures related to the private and public banking system. Finally, I will read measures related to domestic trade. These are the measures we suggest so we may achieve a clear balance between supply and demand within the framework of the free market economy.

Before briefly reading these measures, I also want to note that this adjustment of our policies entails rechanneling public expenditures. This rationalization and reduction of public expenses is applicable to deferrable and nonessential expenditures. It facilitates the direct and efficient control of contracts, bids, direct purchases, the budget, and financial administration of state companies. The objective is to obtain funds to reinforce the social field and balance fiscal funds.

The sectors that will mainly benefit from the rationalization of public expenses will be health, education, housing, social security, the poor, economic growth and employment programs, and security.

Measures: The National Treasury will no longer pay for provincial deficits. The National Treasury will collect the advance contributions and subsidized credits granted to provincial banks. Services will be transferred to the provinces. Special accounts and their respective administrations will be dissolved. The social security system must balance its budget. YPF [Government Oil Deposits] will reduce its investments in oil drilling under its own administration.

To support the 1990 budget, YPF secondary sectors will be sold for approximately $400 or $500 million, Aerolineas Argentinas airlines will be sold for approximately $500 million by the second half of 1990, and ENTEL [National Telecommunications Enterprise] will be sold by the last quarter of 1990.

State companies must collect pending debts from the provinces. Administrative rationalization must be improved, especially to eliminate state secretariats, under secretariats, central administration organizations, and national directorates.

Next week, the executive branch will send the National Congress a draft bill eliminating privileged retirement pensions. The process of selling state property will be accelerated. The organizations that regulate sectorial activities will be dissolved. Subsidies and privileged treatment suspended by the economic emergency law will be eliminated [sentence as heard]. The National Treasury will not guarantee any new foreign financing operation for the state companies and organizations dependent on the central administration. State companies must finance themselves exclusively with their normal incomes, specific funds, and whatever foreign credit they may obtain based on their own collateral.

The credits authorized for the 1990 budget will not be adjusted automatically, but by law. As for the administration of the budget, we want to anticipate that the restructuring and reorganization of a totally outdated budget model, not in keeping with a modern public administration, will kept in mind in the preparation of the 1991 budget. This means that there will be enough time and information to allow experts to analyze the reorganization of the budget structure, to allow the decision makers to have available a more updated and modern base and to allow them constant supervision of public expenses.

The 50-percent suspension in industrial promotion advantages will be extended for an additional year. The allotment of specific funds will be suspended for one year. The income for specific purposes and special accounts will be unified. Responsibility for the financial administration, approval, implementation, and control of the budgets of the Public Works and Services Ministry companies will be given to the Economy Ministry.

What I have just briefly announced is very important for the proper administration of large amounts of funds managed by state companies, especially those involved in goods and services, contracts, and nonpersonal services, which in 1989 amounted to approximately $7.2 billion.

Through these measures, we are seeking to manage the economy through a careful administration of the budget, thus ensuring us funds sufficient to give up the policy that required the public utility rates to pay for expenses that can easily be postponed or that are not fundamental or indispensable to good-quality services. We, thereby, seek to rationalize the expenses of the state-owned enterprises.

We will now discuss income policies. There will be changes in the manner taxes are paid and when they are due. These changes are aimed at reducing the effects the devaluation of the austral can have on the VAT, on internal taxes, and on the percentage of export dollars the Central Bank withholds. This is an attempt to neutralize the famous Tanzi effect on resources and revenue: As the payment of the taxes is postponed, the value of the collected tax is reduced. The term for the payment of VAT will be reduced to 10 days. The term for the collection of internal taxes will be reduced. The eight-day term for the payment of percentages on export dollars withheld by the Central Bank will be reduced to two days.

The supervision of tax collection—especially the collection of the generalized VAT—will be intensified. We are also working on a way of supervising all the asset transfers and financial movements that represent most of the informal and underground economy that has been in use in the country.

As of 1 April, 100 percent of the VAT will be fully returned to the exporters. This measure is aimed at ensuring a fair return of the taxes charged on exports. For a few years now, the VAT has not been returned to the exporters, thus creating a huge accumulated debt for the state. We have now planned to pay this debt through BOCRES [expansion unknown] in five years: 60 percent in four years and the remaining 40 percent in the fifth year. As of 1 April, however, the VAT contained in the exports will begin to be automatically paid to the agricultural and cattle-raising sector and to the industrial sector. The schedule for the collection of percentages paid on exports by the agricultural and cattle-raising sector will continue to be the same.

To eliminate distortions in the payment of salaries to public employees, the government is studying a general measure. This measure consists of reducing by 20 percent the salary of the president of the Republic and in submitting a bill to Congress establishing that no public employee—working for the centralized or decentralized administration, working as an agent, or working for state-owned enterprises—can have a salary higher than that of the president of the Republic. This measure also establishes that a retired employee of any sector of the national, provincial, or municipal administration cannot be rehired by any of these sectors.

We will now discuss the measures related to the price and supply of basic staples. We have observed how the price of these staples has been frequently readjusted with the excuse that they had to be adjusted to the dollar exchange rate. To correct that, and to gradually open up our economy, we will reduce the custom fees for the import of a group of household staples and of medicines.

A nominal tariff reduction to 10 percent on live animals—cattle, sheep, goats, fowl—meat and edible entrails of these animals; fish; liquid milk; potatoes and beans for planting; cereal, wheat, rye, corn, rice, etc.; milled products such as flour, semolina, starch, malt, etc.; oil-bearing seeds and fruits; bakery products; raw cacao; grape juice; ethyl alcohol; and vinager. These products previously had tariffs of 10, 13, and 18 percent; now they will have a uniform 10-percent tax.

Another group of products that now have tariffs of 13, 18, and 20 percent, will henceforth bear a uniform tariff of 10 percent: crustaceans, mollusks, cheeses, eggs, syrups, potatoes and beans for consumption, vegetables, fruits, coffee, tea, mate leaves, spices, flours, oil-bearing seeds and fruits, sugar beets, edible oils, margarine, sausages, meat extracts, roasted cacao, processed beans, processed vegetables, and processed fruits.

A third group of products that now have tariffs of 20 and 24 percent and will henceforth have a tariff of 15 percent: canned fish, crustaceans and mollusks; cacao paste, cacao butter, chocolate, and other items; mineral water, carbonated drinks, beer, wine, vermouth, and cider. As for pharmaceutical products, 86 import categories that still remained in Annex 2 of Decree 4070 are now removed from it. This will facilitate the import of drugs necessary for the manufacture of medicines.

As for markets, it is now established that 330 leading companies—the so-called price-forming companies—will have to report any price change to the Internal Trade Secretariat within three days of the change and demonstrate an increase in costs. This does not mean that price controls are being established, but that information should be turned in so it can be processed and the Internal Trade Secretariat can immediately publish the wholesale prices of those products. I repeat: This is intended to keep the market informed.

On the other hand, price surveys at the retail level will be intensified so indicative prices can be made public under the oversight of consumer associations. The objective is to keep the market well informed and to mobilize the consumer defense associations.

Open fairs are authorized to operate in the Federal Capital, and provincial governors are invited to authorize them as well. These fairs must be located in appropriate places to be determined by city intendants, who will also establish the necessary rules for their operation. Consumers, and social organizations in particular, are invited to make bulk purchases in such a way that the effect of demand, the consumers' weight, can be felt in the market. They can then make products available to their members at low prices.

Meetings will be held with municipal intendants and social organizations to support and promote the establishment of sales outlets for products at low cost, preferably without brand names. This will not imply fixing prices, nor will it involve commercial operations transacted by the state.

Finally, regarding the banking system, official and private banks will be restructured. As for the official system, some measures, such as the restructuring of the Mortgage Bank, have already been adopted and made known to the public. This reform will continue until the banking system can be considered efficient, modern, and useful to those who seek loans for work and production. In this regard, the Central Bank board has already placed on the block a private bank—the Avellaneda Bank—has asked four prospective buyers to improve their offers for the Serrano Bank, and is studying the situation of other private banks so those that are financially beyond recovery can be immediately liquidated.

As for the salary policy, the Executive Branch will consider granting public servants compensation that keeps pace with the economic variables and budgetary possibilities, within the framework of tbe salary negotiation commissions.

The collective bargaining mechanism established by law No. 14250 will be maintained for the private sector.

We will not establish or grant a wage increase for the public sector until next week, when we determine the real impact of the latest price markups on the workers' purchasing power, and the availability of funds in the national budget. The wage increase for the public sector will be established through the mechanisms of their respective bargaining committees.

As for private sector wage increases, I repeat: We will maintain the bargaining board mechanisms.

This was a summary of the measures taken by the Economy Ministry and the National Cabinet which will be implemented as of tomorrow with the authority of the president of the Republic. No banking holidays and tariff or fuel price increases will be declared, and no new measure has been taken contrary to the economic model that has been adopted.

All these mechanisms, and the others we will implement as this economic system consolidates, are meant to overcome this economic crisis and to streamline the economy. It is our purpose to promote—through fiscal and banking measures—credits and investments to steer all national savings toward productive investments.

I have nothing to add. I will now allow the Public Health and Social Action minister to speak, and afterward, I will answer whatever question you may have. Thank you.

[Bauza] As the economy minister has stated, the reduction of expenses in all government areas, has benefited several sectors administered by the Public Health and Social Action Ministry.

Mother and Child Program: We have implemented a health and nourishment program whose main beneficiaries are mothers and children. This program envisages health care for mothers and children in all the health units of the national Mother and Child Program. The first phase of this program will concentrate on pregnant women and mothers of children of up to two years of age. This program envisages the distribution during the first month of one million kg of powdered milk, which means 8 million liters. A similar amount of milk will be distributed weekly as of the second month. This means that we will distribute, in all national Mother and Child Program health units, one million kg of powdered milk as of the second month. This program will be administered by the Public Health and Social Action Ministry with the participation of the Federal Health Council, composed of provincial ministers.

Hospital Assistance. We will reinforce the budgets of all national public hospitals to ensure their total operation. The provincial and municipal hospitals will be granted special aid. The Public Health and Social Action Ministry has also decided to charge members of the workers welfare funds for medical services in public hospitals.

Concerning medicines, this ministry will guarantee the availability of essential medicines at affordable prices for the population. We will also improve on the distribution of the blue and white medical-prescription forms to allow public hospital patients who have external consultations to obtain free medicines.

As for the Solidarity Bond, the Public Health and Social Action Ministry has decided to restructure the mechanisms of this program. As of March, all its funds will be transferred to the provinces and muncipalities to allow them to reinvest in alternative assistance programs according to the needs of each region. This means we are federalizing the bond expense and the decision of implementing different assistance programs.

The cabinet has also agreed to supplement the funds for the food assistance program by federalizing its expenses and authorizing the provinces to implement different food assistance programs.

We will also reinforce the national and provincial Small Children and School Lunches Program. This will allow 1.2 million children to receive a basic meal daily. These measures will be implemented as of tomorrow in our ministry.

[Moderator] The ministers are now open to questions from reporters.

[Reporter] Mr. Economy Minister, the February inflation rate is already being calculated. Some economic analysts are saying that the uncontrolled rise in the dollar rate and the wild readjustment of prices are harbingers of hyperinflation. Others say that we are already experiencing hyperinflation. What is the government's position?

[Gonzalez] As we have already said, this situation is a continuing concern to us. We are aware of these readjustments, we are constantly watching this phenomenon, and we are also aware that there is a recession in the country. All of these are symptoms of hyperinflation. Our answer is that, through strict fiscal control and strict management of public expenses, we will have sufficient funds to purchase the currency required to pay government debts abroad.

We also understand that, within this model, the amount of money to be printed is a fixed variable. We are always concerned about ensuring a fiscal balance to avoid being forced to resort to printing money, thus eliminating one of the basic causes of.... [changes thought] Money now does not spend much time in the pockets of the Argentine people, who are taking refuge in a stronger currency.

We believe this model will strengthen the value of the austral. This strengthening will be achieved through monetary contraction, which will result in a limited amount of money in circulation. The model we are adopting is equivalent to.... [changes thought] It is less than the amount of reserves that the country has in gold and currency. As a result, the austral is supported by the gold and currency the country currently has. We believe that one of the ways to overcome hyperinflation is to adopt a strict fiscal policy, as opposed to other antihyperinflation controls that have been applied in the past.

[Reporter] How much will be saved through the fiscal policies you have adopted? Will the provinces be able to function with no help from the Treasury?

[Gonzalez] The savings from the reduction of expenses can be measured by the reduction in the fiscal deficit that we have inherited. The current fiscal deficit is more than 12 percent of the GDP. It will take a gargantuan effort to balance this. This effort, which will be made through the state-owned companies, the central administration, and increased supervision over revenues, will not only imply increased tax rates or the collection of new taxes, but also good administration of the taxes collected.

[Reporter] Mr. Gonzalez, you said that enterprises setting prices must report their prices within three days. If the prices established by them are not appropriate for the current situation, what will the government do? Do you believe that the reduction in the percentage of dollars that the Central Bank withholds on exports will push up prices conditioned to the dollar exchange rate?

[Gonzalez] I will answer both questions by saying that, through this announcement, the Trade Secretariat is seeking to make the market more open by reporting to consumers the prices of the products when they leave the factory. We cannot forget that after leaving the factory the products follow a marketing chain that adds significant costs to the original price, thereby making prices several times higher.

Regarding concrete measures, I can say that the government will not establish maximum prices. Customs fees will be reduced and this will show that there are competitive prices at the international level. This will neutralize the effect of the monopolies, of the oligopolies inside the Argentine market. This is why the gradual opening of our economy will tend to create this competitiveness when it cannot be smoothly done within the domestic market.

[Reporter] During last weekend's meetings did you discuss the need to readjust salaries, as demanded by the labor unions?

[Gonzalez] We have said that the salary adjustment was one of the topics discussed. We have decided not to establish an amount until we have a better assessment of the impact of price increases on salaries.

[Reporter] In addition to the economic factors, we see that people in Argentina are losing confidence, that those people with some savings are converting their money into dollars, that merchants are marking prices up just in case, that industrialists and businessmen are depositing thousands of millions abroad. Do you think people have lost confidence? Does the government believe that the confidence of all national sectors can be recovered? What can be done?

[Gonzalez] Before I answer your question let me tell you something. This is a problem that constantly plagues underdeveloped countries, originating in the lack of national savings. Those countries that lack confidence in their institutions or in their currency allow or—better said—channel their national savings abroad by some means or another. A country that does not invest its savings can hardly strengthen the domestic market or create job opportunities. This is when the state appears to be overprotective, creating artificial job opportunities that it finances by greater indebtedness or by printing money. This is where the vicious circle starts, and it leads to the phenomenon we are currently experiencing, hyperinflation.

This is not the result of the current economic model nor that of the previous administration. It is a structural problem, a problem with a package of measures on state regulation and intervention that was never even stable. This is when the investor starts losing confidence in the tax policy, in the financial policy, in the credit policy, in the fiscal policy, and in price controls always carried out by the state. This is when national savings start to be shipped abroad. This is why I say that it is a structural problem that is being exploited and is at this moment fueling hyperinflation, which causes people to channel their money abroad. These people are not only the great industrialists or businessmen, but also people with small saving accounts who find it hard to save in australes.

These measures, which show that the state does not want to intervene or regulate and that it wishes to implement a policy that will allow and encourage private enterprise and defend and protect the patrimony of each Argentine citizen, will create the climate and necessary conditions for a return of national savings not only to the short-term financial sector but to productive sector investments as well.

[Reporter] Minister Erman Gonzalez, I wonder if the recently announced fiscal measures are directly linked to the need to encourage investor confidence in a sensitive exchange market or whether they are the result, along with the reorganization of the banking sector, of negotiations being carried out with foreign banking interests?

[Gonzalez] Your first statement is correct. Here in Argentina we must be aware of the crisis and the paths that must be taken to overcome it. Any measures implemented with the intention of overcoming the problems in the short term, measures that may be acceptable but short-lived, are not effective. Argentina's economic history shows that we are experiencing an extreme crisis and that there is no way the state can overcome this situation by adopting protectionist measures, granting subsidies, or increasing public investment or expenditures to cover this lack of activity, lack of savings, and lack of investment.

As for our relationship with international organizations, so far, they are perfectly normal. We are continuing to discuss and assess our projections. I also want to point out that it is not the international organizations that impose conditions but rather the country, the government itself, that submits its budget, its proposal, and its future economic development program for discussion.

[Reporter] Mr. Minister, I would like to ask a couple of questions. First, will the measures that the government has just released influence the dollar market next week? Second, will the salary reduction that has been ordered for the executive branch and government organizations be extended to the judicial and legislative branches?

[Gonzalez] Concerning the first point, we have just said that the loss of confidence in the austral is one of the consequences of this escalation of the dollar rate. The state is giving concrete signals and is taking final steps to balance fiscal accounts. We believe that these measures will strengthen the people's confidence in their institutions, in the management of fiscal funds, and in the management of the state, thus making people feel that the austral will maintain its purchasing power.

As for the second question, the executive branch can make decisions within its own jurisdiction. It may invite the other branches of government to adopt similar policies, but it cannot overstep its own jurisdiction...

[Reporter, interrupting] [Words indistinct].

[Gonzalez] ...obviously including state-run companies.

[Moderator] The ministers will only answer three more questions, as they still have other things do.

[Reporter] Mr. Economy Minister, I would like to refer to a question that was asked by one of my colleagues. If the state has decided to stop transferring funds to the provinces, what will happen when the provinces run out of cash? Another question: How much has the state transferred to state-run companies in 1989, at least since the advent of this government, and thus far in 1990, considering that it was decided a long time ago that the Treasury would no longer transfer funds to those companies, with the exception of Argentine Railways?

[Gonzalez] As for your first question, I will tell you that by this suspension of the transfer of funds we mean the suspension of the transfer of special funds to the provinces. By no means do we intend to suspend the supply of coparticipation funds, to which the provinces are legitimately entitled and which are automatically transferred.

As for the second question, it is difficult to remember the amount of the transfers. I can tell you, however, that funds have been transferred not only to Argentine Railways but also to other enterprises which began to have cash problems. We believe that after the final utility-rate increase and the reduction and considerable streamlining of operational costs, the transfer of funds will be limited exclusively to Argentine Railways and to the payment of salaries of this enterprise.

[Reporter] Minister Bauza, you said that the solidarity bonds to be transferred to the provinces would be managed by the federal government. Does that mean that the provincial governments will be in charge of organizing the bond system and of delivering the bonds? Will the problems that affected the previous delivery of solidarity bonds be solved?

[Bauza] The funds that will be placed under federal government management and the bond system will disappear. This means that there will be a new program. Each province may implement its own program with the funds that it receives. The third series of bonds was distributed to all provinces. The funds for the bonds will be transferred to the provinces so that each one of them may implement their own programs. There will be one condition: These programs must benefit one million families. That means that each province may implement its own programs provided they benefit the same number of families that benefited from the solidarity bond.

[Reporter] Have any measures been established to prevent a repetition of the mistakes made with the solidarity bonds?

[Bauza] We will establish a control mechanism in which all provincial health ministers will participate to supervise solidarity-bond spending.

[Reporter] Minister Gonzalez, will the government continue to insist on implementing the social pact after the implementation of these measures? Will the government seek an accord with the main opposition sector to continue with the negotiations?

[Gonzalez] The government has already taken concrete steps through the accords with the labor, business, and financial sectors. The talks will continue until a sociopolitical pact can be achieved.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct].

[Gonzalez] Even though the talks do not follow a timetable, progress is being made toward this goal, which was one of President Menem's proposals.

[Moderator] Thank you very much, gentlemen. Good evening.

Menem Discusses Country's Financial 'Crisis'

PY2002002790 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0031 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Feb (NA)—President Carlos Menem asked "the people" today to "stoically support the situation to prevent it from worsening, because things will improve when the program is fully implemented." He added that "nothing will be gained with demonstrations, insults, and shouting." Menem made these remarks during a Radio El Mundo program in which he defended his economic program and confirmed the stability of his cabinet, which "is working full time to solve the crisis."

Menem also defended his government's decision to deactivate the fixed-term deposit system for accounts of one million australes and more by exchanging the deposits for Bonex-89 [dollar-denominated bonds] because, he said, "what would have happened if we continued issuing australes to maintain the seven-day fixed-term deposits?" Menem said: "Savers of five million [words indistinct] would have seen their savings reduced to 500,000 or 500 australes."

Regarding consumer prices and the increase in the dollar rate, Menem said: "We will have to put up with it. We need to be patient and prudent, and wait for things to fall into place in the free market." Menem added: "People should not despair or panic, as these emotions do not provide good counsel."

"For many years we had a controlled economy, we then had something like a protected market economy [words indistinct] in Argentina. It worked for some time. Then we had controls again. Our economy has been declining ever since."

Menem recalled that "during General Peron's government Argentina was among the first seven countries in the world. We had reserves and were able to implement a series of measures to give immediate answers to a series of problems." Menem said, however, that "we no longer have those reserves. The economy began to slide after the fall of Frondizi's government."

Menem stressed that "we barely had $80 million in reserves" when he took over. "How can a government without resources maintain enterprises that are permanently in the red?" Menem asked. "When we talk about reorganizing the Mortgage Bank we mean reorganizing it at the smallest social cost possible," Menem said.

Menem continued: "The banks that are being reorganized will continue to operate; I want people to understand that. Nothing will be gained by demonstrations, insults, or shouting. You can achieve much more with dialogue." Menem then stressed: "We cannot go back on this program because the state does not have the resources to face the huge deficits we had to face in the past."

Menem also said that "foreign help will come if we fulfill the creditors' conditions." The president then asked: "How can anyone fault us? After all, we took over with a $70 billion foreign debt." Menem concluded by saying that "foreign help will come as soon as we fulfill some creditors' requirements."

INDEC Releases 1989 Trade Balance Figures

PY1801190690 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 17 Feb 90 p 5

[Text] (DYN)—Argentina's trade balance—or the difference between imports and exports—produced a surplus in 1989 of 5.468 billion dollars, 43.4 percent higher than the surplus recorded in 1988.

This information was released yesterday by the National Census and Statistics Institute (INDEC) with the reminder that the figures are preliminary estimates. The report also said that exports increased five percent and imports fell 22.5 percent with respect to 1988.

All categories except vegetables and textiles had a positive trade balance.

Police Seize Explosives at Workers Union Clinic

PY2002012290 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 18 Feb 90 p 8

[Text] On 17 February the police seized a large quantity of powerful explosives and arrested two individuals, one of them the leader of the Construction Workers Union of the Argentine Republic [UOCRA], in a surprise operation against a UOCRA-owned clinic in the suburban district of La Matanza.

According to police sources, among the confiscated explosives were military antitank projectiles, several clips for FAL light automatic rifles, French-made dynamite sticks, 1.16 kg of TNT, and a package containing plastic explosives without detonators.

Personnel from the Intelligence and Investigation Brigade of the La Matanza Regional Unit carried out the operation at the Opecom clinic at 3313 Guatemala Street in San Justo District.

The sources said that two persons, whose identities have not been revealed, were arrested during the operation. It has been learned, however, that one of them is an important official at UOCRA.

The sources linked this discovery with the dynamite attack on the UOCRA branch at 3442 Ocampo Street on 7 November 1989.

The explosion caused major damage to the UOCRA building and completely destroyed a car owned by UOCRA that was parked in front of the building.

Bolivia

President Paz Zamora Comments on Drug Summit

PY1702023090 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Speech by President Paz Zamora upon his arrival from Cartagena drug summit at La Paz Airport on 16 February—recorded]

[Excerpt] We have to reaffirm that the nation's view of the drug problem was reflected in Cartagena. The victory we achieved is a victory for the country and for the Bolivian people. This time, more than ever, I really felt that I was representing a unified nation pursuing a national goal. I really felt part of a nation that is becoming stronger every day, a nation that is developing a stronger personality and identity in the current international context.

I would like to emphasize that the Cartagena meeting, beyond the issues discussed there, represents without any doubt a new type of relationship between the United States and Latin America, and also a new type of relationship between the United States and Bolivia. I believe that it is difficult to find a meeting of this type ever before in our history; it is difficult to find such a hemispheric relationship between the United States and Latin America and between the United States and our country.

I would say that, beyond the content of the meeting, it was a real pleasure to meet with friends like Presidents Bush, Alan Garcia, and Virgilio Barco, who showed himself to be a great Latin American with his hospitality and fraternity. The meeting with Bush was an opportunity to meet again. I would also like to point out and admit that there is nothing in history similar to the great understanding and openness shown by the U.S. President in discussing such a delicate issue. In this regard, I believe that Latin America should recognize that the U.S. President is a great representative of the American people, and the best man to discuss the struggle against drug trafficking and to reach an agreement.

Needless to say, for a long time, the Latin American presidents have been sharing the concepts presented at the summit. I would say that these concepts were agreed upon in Cartagena, where our four countries found a common concept of what the fight against drug trafficking must be.

The four countries, which are most directly connected to the problem are on our continent, and now that these concepts are established, we must start to act. As we are the countries most connected to the problem, we can now lead the action. This is a fundamental aspect of the Cartagena summit, and we must take it into consideration.

As I said when I left the country, we did not go to Cartagena to ask for money. We went to Cartagena to offer our contribution to this common effort. We will contribute to this effort from the Bolivian point of view, from the Bolivian position, and from the Bolivian theory on how to stage this fight against drug trafficking. I must share with you the satisfaction of having seen the other presidents support and share the Bolivian theory. I can say that this theory is no longer a Bolivian theory but a continental theory, and that in the near future, this consensus will probably be shared by the rest of the international community. We have discussed this theory with President Bush within the the framework of the extremely important meeting that he will hold in Houston, in July, with the seven most industrialized countries in the world. In the meeting, which will be presided over by the United States, President Bush will present this theory in the terms in which it was discussed and approved during the Cartagena summit.

I must also tell you that, although we did not go to Cartagena to ask for money, we have had the satisfaction of seeing that the sensitive points of this theory—such as the alternative development, which is commonly referred to as coca in exchange for development, or the necessity to replace the coca leaf, not exactly with another product, but with an alternative economy that may offer the country other prospects—and all the other basic concepts have been thoroughly understood and accepted as part of this overall plan, in which the points of view and uneasiness of the United States, Peru, and Colombia are undoubtedly also reflected. There has been no defeated country in this summit. There have been four victorious presidents and four victorious countries. There has been a consensus and the four countries jointly agreed on this important issue.

I am happy to tell you that there will be no foreign troops in our country and that no herbicide will be used in the coca replacement program [applause]. I must point out, however, that we are fully convinced that the task we are committed to cannot be conducted in Bolivia without the active participation of the coca growers, of the Bolivian peasants. [passage omitted]

Minister Views Peasant Criticism of Drug Summit

PY2002114890 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Minister of the Presidency Gustavo Fernandez today said the criticism by peasant leaders of the agreement signed by President Paz Zamora at the Cartagena summit stems from sectarian political positions.

Fernandez said the government considers the attitude of the coca leaf producers to be incomprehensible. He said that the peasants' rejection may be prompted by a lack of information on what was proposed by President Paz Zamora. Most of Paz Zamora's proposal was accepted by the chiefs of state who attended the Cartagena gathering.

Minister Fernandez said the basic aspects of the Bolivian strategy for alternative developments were supported. He referred to the protection of the traditional coca plantations, the ban on the use of herbicides or chemicals to eradicate surplus coca plantations, the participation of coca leaf producers in the substitution programs, and aspects in defense of our national sovereignty.

[Begin Fernandez recording] These specific points clearly show that the Cartagena Declaration does not provide for the intervention of the Armed Forces in the national struggle against illegal drug trafficking or the surplus coca plantations. [end recording]

Moreover, Fernandez said the criticisms leveled by the peasants against the government regarding the lack of markets for alternative crops do not reflect the real situation in the country and on the international market.

[Begin recording] [Fernandez] They do not even know about any alternative crops.

[Unidentified reporter] What about coffee?

[Fernandez] Coffee is one alternative, but not necessarily the best. As the peasants have explicitly said, international coffee prices have dropped. The peasants are well aware that the United States does not establish the international coffee prices. These prices are competitively set by Brazil, Colombia, and some African countries. [end recording]

Under Secretary Denies Presence of Drug Cartels

PY1602134390 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Text] Interior Under Secretary Raul Loayza has ruled out the possibility of a drug-trafficking cartel being created in our country. He explained that there is a great difference between a cartel and a regular drug trafficker. What is clear, he said, is that there are groups of people engaged in this illegal activity.

[Begin Loayza recording] Drug trafficking does exist in Bolivia. Factories are seized in different areas of our country and drugs are seized every day. This is obvious proof that there are groups engaged in drug trafficking. This is still far from being the operations of a cartel. Even though we are not sure of the organizational levels of these groups, there is every reason to believe there are still no cartels in Bolivia. [end recording]

Loayza also referred to statements by U.S. Ambassador to Bolivia Robert Gelbard regarding the production of cocaine in Bolivia. Loayza admitted that there are indications the ambassador may be right and that there may be factories selling cocaine hydrochloride.

Official Says Drug Traffickers Seek New Markets

PY1702220890 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 12 Feb 90 p 4

[Text] Bolivian drug traffickers are seeking new markets in the Southern Cone countries because of the virtual blockade of the traditional drug route to the United

States caused by U.S. military pressures on Central American and northern countries.

According to the DEA [Drug Enforcement Administration] and specialized Bolivian organizations that control drug trafficking, Panama and even countries like Cuba had been used as permanent "springboards" to send drugs to U.S. markets.

General Lucio Anez, the top leader of the Special Antinarcotic Forces, has told Fides News Agency (ANF) that the virtual "blockade" of the route for drug trafficking to the United States has caused the drug traffickers "to seek new markets in the Southern Cone countries."

The firm position of the Cuban Government against drug activities in the Caribbean and the invasion and virtual control of Panama have blocked the direct drug routes toward the United States and European countries.

Anez Rivera said the bloody war unleashed by the Virgilio Barco administration against drug trafficking, the rigorous Brazilian control of the Amazon area, and the powerful base that Peru installed with U.S. cooperation in the Huallaga region have created "a virtual iron curtain against drug trafficking."

This situation, Anez Rivera added, is closely related to the recent confiscation of supplies, explosives, and machine guns—which are very expensive—and that, therefore, were probably not purchased directly by drug traffickers on the international markets.

He said: "Frequently, the drug business involves the exchange of drugs for merchandise, such as household electrical equipment and automobiles, in order to launder drug money."

Gen. Lucio Anez said that "drug traffickers are exchanging drugs for weapons to arm themselves to carry out violence." By doing that, he said, the traffickers are "surely committing suicide."

Anez also indicated that if the drug problem becomes militarized, the Bolivian Government will be in better condition to meet and defeat the drug traffickers, by using all the resources that the law allows in this matter.

Anez said in the last few years the Bolivian Armed Forces have been trained to a high professional level to face situations of any kind. He added: "Therefore, if the drug traffickers plan to use violence, they will be committing suicide."

Comments on Antidrug Effort

PY1802005690 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 9 Feb 90 p 8

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] General Lucio Anez, commander of the narcotics police UMOPAR [Area Police Patrol Units], has said there are great expectations about the results of the drug summit.

He said that for his sector the basic requirements for the struggle are more communications equipment, arms, electronic equipment, and better conditions for the troops involved in the activity.

Answering questions, Anez said that there is indeed more drug trafficking activity in Bolivian territory. He added: "We have noticed the presence of foreigners in Bolivia to prepare cocaine hydrochloride, which must be refined in Bolivia and Colombia."

He said investigations have shown that the drug produced here is going to Argentina, Brazil, and Mexico, before finally going to the United States, Europe, and—in small amounts—to Colombia. He added: "More cocaine is certainly being produced in the country. It has been proven that the cocaine paste made in Chapare is more often taken to Beni for processing and refinement."

Anez said: "We have also verified that laboratories are operating in Chapare and in the Santa Cruz Department. Some areas have already been identified, and we are carrying out operations in various places. The struggle has been intensified aggressively in Chapare, where we have seized more drugs, destroyed more factories, and made some arrests."

He said the operations led to the confiscation of 533 kg of cocaine last week, which gives an idea of the large amount produced in the "red" zone.

He said in January alone, 120 operations were carried out; 820,918 grams of cocaine were seized; more than 1,600,747 grams were burned; 83 factories and laboratories and 181 maceration pits were destroyed; 65 people were arrested; 12 drug traffickers were put under the jurisdiction of the Attorney General's Office; and 31 people were released from custody.

He said this month there was less action because of the rainy season and the maintenance being done on the helicopters, planes, and boats.

Regarding the charges made by peasants blaming UMOPAR for the destruction of roads, Anez said that police sometimes destroy roads when they discover drug traffickers. The drug traffickers, however, rebuild the roads or build detours or airstrips to continue their operations, especially in Eterazama or Isiboro, where the drug traffickers use roads to take the drugs to Beni.

Anez added that UMOPAR has 1,090 men: 648 uniformed men in Chapare and Beni, and the rest in the intelligence and internal operation organizations. He said: "This is an active and effective force, and the DEA [Drug Enforcement Administration] provides us with an additional good intelligence service."

Anez indicated that basic services for the troops—especially health services—are bad. He said: "We have no insurance but we are trying to get it. When we have an emergency and people are wounded, they are immediately taken to Santa Cruz." He admitted that salaries are low but said the quality of the uniforms has improved, because uniforms are generallly torn during the operations and must be replaced.

Nicaraguan Envoy Arrives, Discusses Elections

PY1702112290 La Paz Radio Fides in Spanish 2330 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Text] The new Nicaraguan ambassador to Bolivia arrived in our country within the past few hours. He will serve as the concurrent ambassador to Peru and Bolivia. Upon his arrival at the El Alto airport, he made the following remarks:

[Begin recording] [Caldera] My name is Octavio Caldera, and I have come to present my credentials as the concurrent Nicaraguan ambassador to Bolivia. The objective of my visit is to strengthen and deepen our bilateral relations. I am also here to convey the Nicaragua people's brotherly and unifying embrace to the Bolivian people. I expect that during my brief visit I will meet with several political, socioeconomic, diplomatic, and official representatives to facilitate a strengthening of our relations.

[Reporter] In view of the fact that you have just arrived in Bolivia, I would like to ask a question for ethical reasons. My question is about the current situation and presidential elections in Nicaragua.

[Caldera] As UN and OAS observers, former President Carter and others have said the development of the Nicaraguan electoral process can be regarded as exemplary in Latin America. Ten parties are participating in this electoral process under the equal conditions and opportunities established by the law. There is nonrestrictive press freedom and a confrontation between the revolution and U.S. policy.

The U.S. Government has disrespectfully financed Violeta Barrios' campaign. The results of the 25 February elections will reveal whether the Nicaraguan people support imperialism or the achievements made by the revolution over a 10-year period.

Preelection surveys have indicated that 25 percent of the voters support President Ortega and approximately 20 to 24 percent support Mrs. Chamorra. Last week, however, this percentage increased in Commander Ortega's favor. One reason for this advantage is the Bush administration's backward policy, which is implementing the same systems of action toward Latin America as in the last century. Proof of this is the invasion of Panama, the attack on the Nicaraguan ambassador's residence in Panama, the violation of the rights of the Cuban ambassador to Panama, the attack on a small, defenseless Cuban cargo ship, the threatened deployment of U.S. troops along the Colombian coast, and the rhetorical, militarist, threatening, and aggressive attitude of the United States, which is becoming increasingly unpopular on the American continent and throughout the world because it harshly contrasts with the changes and the positive attitudes of all governments. This is why the international community is strongly rejecting this policy.

This situation has caused the loss of support for the candidate officially and disrespectfully backed by the U.S. administration. All of the alleged excuses that the former and current U.S. administrations have used to greatly insult the Nicaraguan people will dissipate at the end of the electoral process. They will probably be compelled to pay the fine determined by the international court, which is the world's main court. This court has charged the United States with being an aggressor and ordered it to pay over $16 billion—the equivalent of 10 years of our budget—for damages to the country. [end recording]

These were the remarks of the new Nicaraguan ambassador to Bolivia. He will present copies of his credentials to the foreign minister on 19 February. On 20 February he will submit the originals of his credentials to the president of the Republic.

Brazil

Commentary on Drug Summit as Antidrug 'Foundation'

PY1602150990 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 15 Feb 90 p 3

[Commentary: "The Drug Summit"]

[Text] The security measures taken to guarantee the safety of President George Bush in Colombian territory clearly reflect the importance that drug trafficking is now accorded in the domestic life and foreign policy of the Andean countries and the United States. Drugs are no longer a police or health problem. They have become an issue governing the relations between the world's greatest power and many of its neighbors. Unfortunately, President Bush inherited from Ronald Reagan an obsessive bias in dealing with this issue. Although it is true that this vice is eroding U.S. society, it is also true that the militarization of the problem yields poor practical results and belittles U.S. actions overseas.

The drug summit, as the meeting among Presidents Bush, Paz Zamora, Virgilio Barco, and Alan Garcia is being called, could be a turning point in this trend toward militarizing a problem that, in its complexity, involves the ethics of U.S. society, the economic survival of the traditional coca farmers in the Andean valleys, and the interference of drug barons in the normal political life of the countries in which they are active. This change in dealing with the problem is vital in the resolution of the drug issue because, on the one hand, it will permit Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia to drop the nationalistic peevishness that precludes positive attitudes and, on the other, it will make the United States understand and respect the legitimate sentiments of the Latin American peoples. The history of Latin America is also a history of resentment against the United States. This resentment, justified or not, must be kept in mind during the formulation of hemispheric policies. When it is not kept in mind, the results have a negative impact on Latin American public opinion. An example of this was when the United States sent troops to Bolivia to assist in the eradication of coca crops and processing laboratories.

The drug summit will gather at the same table the representatives of the three main producer countries and the main consumer country. These four men do not have the power to reduce or interrupt drug production and trafficking by decree. Thus, the results of this conference will not be spectacular, even if they all fully agree on the measures to be taken. For example, in the United States coca and cocaine are one and the same, but this is not true for the Andean countries. This difference became clear when we learned that, before going to Cartagena, President Jaime Paz Zamora met with 3,000 coca farmers in the Coroico Valley and promised not to take a single step that would be detrimental to the 500,000 Bolivian producers. The Bolivian president reinforced his intentions by chewing coca leaves, a traditional habit of the Andean Indians.

No matter how modest the results may be in view of the magnitude of the problem, the Manzanillo Island meeting will lay the foundation for the first nonmilitary adjustments to an issue that does not require only solutions of force. The drug-trafficking phenomenon is transnational in its expression and morally untenable in its conception. Herein lies the threat of the Brazilian Amazon region becoming an epadu—a coca variety of the Amazon region—production center or a coca-paste processing center.

Nearly all the South American countries are today linked by bilateral agreements on the prevention of illegal drug trafficking and trade. Such agreements, however, are made virtually meaningless by shortages in equipment and manpower in the suppression organizations and by the leniency with which the courts in many countries treat drug traffickers, mainly in cases requiring extradition. The solution to this problem will be realized the day all the nations—similar to what was done to counter terrorism—recognize the transnational nature of this crime, whose repression should not violate national sovereignties.

Seplan Official on Payments to International Banks

PY1702175190 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Text] The so-called fund-removal club, through which our country has to pay international banks an amount higher than the fresh funds that it receives from the banks, will continue to operate until 1992.

According to a Seplan [Secretariat of Planning] report on the relations between Brazil and the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank [IDB], our country will pay those two banks more than $6.5 billion before 1992. Brazil will receive in return a little more than $2.6 billion to finance projects for which accords have already been signed.

The fund-removal club, which was criticized by President Jose Sarney and is considered one of the reasons behind Brazil's balance-of-payments problems, will continue until 1992.

According to Seplan Undersecretary for International Affairs (Italo Lima), there is only one way to minimize the effects of the club: Brazil should try to obtain loans for investment from the World Bank and the IDB. A gradual supply of funds can neutralize the negative transfers, putting them at least at an acceptable level.

[Begin (Lima) recording] If Brazil continues its efforts to contract big investment projects—for approximately $1.7 billion with the World Bank and approximately $800 or $900 million with the IDB—such loans will call for small repayment amounts, around $200 or $300 million per year. These operations can even yield positive results if Brazil contracts rapid-disbursement loans. [end recording]

(Lima) added that an accord with the IMF is a precondition for the negotiation of investment projects with these two banks, which Brazil does not have. The president-elect will therefore have two tasks on the external front in addition to the negotiations with private creditors.

Collor Names Future Infrastructure Minister

PY2002022590 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1600 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Excerpts] President-elect Fernando Collor de Mello today named Engineer Ozires Silva as the new infratructure minister. The Infrastructure Ministry will group the current Ministries of Communications, Mines and Energy, and Transportation and will have the largest budget in the Collor administration.

Future Minister Ozires Silva is 59 years old. He is married with three children and seven grandchildren. He was born in Bauru, Sao Paulo State, and graduated as an aeronautics engineer from the Aeronautics Technology Institute. Silva got a masters degree in aeronautic science from the California Institute of Technology. He received an honorary degree [doutor honoris causa] from the University of Ireland and is a member of several national and international aeronautics institutions, such as the British Royal Aeronautics Society.

Silva founded and presided over Embraer [Brazilian Aeronautics Company] and has served as president of Petrobras [Brazilian Petroleum Corporation]. He is currently working in the private sector. Silva serves on the executive boards of eight large national companies.

The announcement of the appointment of the new minister was made early this morning in the Itamaraty annex building. [passage omitted]

Infrastructure Minister-designate Ozires Silva spoke at a news conference about the privatization of state companies:

[Begin Silva recording] Of course we must reduce the state apparatus. The state cannot be so costly for the contributors, and it needs a large fund of savings to promote investments. We will strictly respect the law in any kind of privatization process for state companies. Under these circumstances I think that Embraer can be privatized without any problem as it is an attractive company for the private sector. [end recording]

Labor Minister-Designate on Salaries, Inflation

PY1602124490 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Report by Marly Moreira from Sao Paulo]

[Text] The president of the General Confederation of Workers, Antonio Rogerio Magri, who has been chosen to serve as labor minister in Collor de Mello's administration, has said that the day after his inauguration he will make an appointment with Jair Meneghelli, president of CUT, the United Confederation of Workers, to discuss the possibility of reaching a national accord on the new government's salary policy.

Rogerio Magri is opposed in principle to changing the salary policy. In Magri's opinion, priority should be given to fighting inflation.

[Begin Magri recording] I (?told) Fernando Collor de Mello yesterday that right now I am concerned about not changing the salary policy because, from the most practical economic-policy viewpoint, we will have to hold discussions. Yesterday he promised me that he would not become involved in salary policy without listening to the Brazilian labor movement. This is also important.

I want to tell Brazilian society that it does not pay to fix weekly, daily, [word indistinct] salaries if we do not succeed in reducing inflation. [end recording]

During his news conference, Rogerio Magri committed himself to struggling to recover the purchasing power of the wage-earning class. Magri also endorsed the creation of a workers' bank as a tripartite institution that would administer social funds already established in Collor de Mello's government program.

Regarding strikes, the trade union leader said that as labor minister he would comply with the Constitution. Rogerio Magri recalled that a supplementary law must be passed in the case of strikes in the basic services sector.

Chile

Pinochet Denies 'Secret Plan' for Candidacy

PY1702172090 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Relay from Collaique by Graciela Contreras]

[Excerpt] In the next few hours local residents will pay homage to President Pinochet for carrying out his government task. The ceremony will be held at the (?movie theater) of this regional capital, where it has been 25 degrees [centigrade] the past few days.

During a talk with journalists who are accompanying him on his tour of southern Chile, Pinochet denied and ruled out the possibility that the Armed Forces could intervene in a crisis similar to the one that occurred in 1973 because there is now a security council that would prevent that.

Pinochet also denied an alleged secret plan to allow him to run as a presidential candidate within a four-year period. [passage omitted]

Errazuriz on Air Traffic Accord, Falklands

PY1702170490 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Hernan Felipe Errazuriz has expressed his wish for relations between Argentina and Chile to continue to progress within the spirit of the peace and friendship treaty signed by the two countries in 1985.

In a statement issued by the Foreign Ministry Errazuriz notes that, in a telephone conversation with Argentine Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo, he stressed the need to fully implement the terms of the air transportation agreement signed 8-9 January. Cavallo expressed his desire for President Menem to make a prompt decision on the issue.

Argentina has recently repealed a bilateral agreement on full freedom of air traffic. The Chilean air line Ladeco, which had begun to make arrangements for flights to Buenos Aires, has protested this decision.

Errazuriz conveyed to Cavallo the Chilean Government's satisfaction over the announcement of the resumption of relations between Argentina and Great Britain and the creation of a temporary system of information and consultation between the two countries.

Errazuriz said that the Chilean Government believes that the success of these negotiations will contribute to strengthening peace in the region and establishing constructive bases toward reaching a peaceful solution to the Malvinas issue.

Party Leaves Congressional Board Negotiations

PY1702194090 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] Sebastian Pinera, senator-elect for the National Renewal Party, has reiterated that his party's longstanding objective has been to build a democracy on the basis of accords. He made this statement after his party decided to withdraw from the talks seeking a consensus on the designation of members of the boards of the Senate and of the Chamber of Deputies.

Pinera said the fact that National Renewal failed to obtain the presidency of the Senate and of the Chamber of Deputies is not the reason that no accord was reached.

[Pinera, in progress] "...not because we did not obtain the presidency of the Senate. We did not participate in the negotiations for a very clear reason: We do not agree to a situation in which there is actually nothing to negotiate, in which everything has already been decided. We clearly said that in our statement yesterday.

"Third, I would like to explain clearly what Andres Zaldivar said about a phone conversation that we held yesterday. We talked over the phone so I could tell him that we would not attend the meeting on Thursday. At no time did we ask or propose to join in negotiations over the designation of congressional committee presidents."

[Announcer] A disagreement on this issue is not a catastrophe, Pinera said, adding that there are other important issues dealing with Congress. He announced that the specifically designated committees will meet on 20 February to begin analyzing congressional issues.

[Pinera] "I would like to reiterate that we did not propose any negotiation over such committees. We did say, however, that we are naturally entitled to be represented in such committees because we have 11 senators and more than 30 deputies. The other issues concerning the committees have not yet been thoroughly analyzed."

[Announcer] Pinera added that the disagreement on the designation of members of the congressional boards—provoked by what he called the intransigence of the Coalition of Parties for Democracy—will undoubtedly entail new difficulties for future accords on the work by the congressional committees.

National Renewal secretary general Andres Allamand said:

[Allamand] "The negotiation over congressional boards is linked with the designation of members of congressional committees. The public is aware that the UDI [Independent Democratic Union] will reportedly be assigned the presidency of two committees in the Chamber of Deputies—the Ways and Means and the Defense Committees—in exchange for its support and for its free, or almost free, transfer of the Presidency of the Senate Board to the Christian Democratic Party.

"Consequently, the accord on the congressional boards implies an accord [words indistinct] linking the issue to the congressional committees."

[Announcer] A general, not a partial, accord had to be reached, Allamand said, adding that the accord between the UDI and the coalition is irreversible. We are not talking about 1 or 2 posts but about the balance of the forces represented in Congress, the functioning of Congress, its procedures, and the congressional process as a whole, he concluded.

Colombia

Peruvian President Comments on Talks With Bush

PA1702005290 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2349 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Text] Santa Marta, Colombia, 16 Feb (DPA)—Peruvian President Alan Garcia Perez said today in the Colombian city of Santa Marta, that Latin America's main problem is not drug trafficking, but the foreign debt.

The president, who attended a drug summit in Cartagena yesterday along with his counterparts from the United States, Bolivia, and Colombia—Presidents George Bush, Jaime Paz Zamora, and Virgilio Barco Vargas, respectively—came to the Caribbean city, "historic shrine of America," to pay tribute to the liberator Simon Bolivar, who died here on 17 December 1830.

"The root of drug trafficking is our people's poverty and U.S. citizens' consumer power," Garcia Perez said, after emphasizing that "the United States' discriminatory trade policy is to blame for the 'coca-ization' of the Andean economies."

According to the Peruvian president, the meeting held in Cartagena "opens the doors to multilateral negotiations instead of the bilateral negotiations that the powerful utilized to divide Latin America."

Garcia Perez, a harsh critic of Washington's policy in the subregion, also invited U.S. President George Bush to "sit down at a table to discuss the foreign debt and international trade, as we have discussed drug trafficking."

"If drug trafficking represents the greatest threat to the national security of the United States, poverty and hunger, generated by foreign debt and unfair trade are the greatest threats to us," he said.

Responding to a question about "the cold greeting" he exchanged with the U.S. President yesterday, Garcia Perez said: "I greet friends that I know warmly, and I was meeting Mr. Bush for the first time."

"Moreover," he added, "this attitude on my part is logical in view of my position on Latin American sovereignty, my contention that the United States is greatly to blame for the impoverishment of the region, and my rejection of the invasion of Panama."

However, Garcia Perez added that the "talks (with Bush) were entirely sincere, and after speaking frankly and seeing each other eye to eye, our relations have improved."

ELN Releases U.S. Priest in Northern Cali

PA2002140290 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1211 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Cali—The Cali police have confirmed that U.S. Priest Francisco Antonio Amico Ferrari, who had been kidnapped by an ELN [Army of National Liberation] cell, was released in northern Cali on 19 February.

Priest Amico Ferrari, who has been working in the Andres Sanim neighborhood in northeastern Cali for three years, showed up at his parish, the Nuestra Senora de la Asuncion Church, at the end of the 1930 mass last night. Although visibly tired, Amico Ferrari was happy with having recovered his freedom. The priest said he was treated well and that he had been kidnapped by an ELN cell in protest of U.S. President George Bush's recent visit to Cartagena.

Commission for Other U.S. Hostage

PA1702023990 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] The media today received an urgent message signed by Marta Ospina Jaramillo, I.D. card no. 43033612, issued in Medellin, in which she says that the National Liberation Army [ELN] has requested the formation of a commission to receive U.S. citizen David Leslie Kent, who has been kidnapped by the ELN.

FARC Proposes General Election Cease-Fire

PA1702213990 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2041 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] Bogota, 17 Feb (EFE)—The communist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) today revealed a communique in which they propose that the government give orders to the Armed Forces decreeing a cease-fire for the upcoming parliamentary, municipal, and presidential elections.

FARC states that it will maintain a unilateral cease-fire that it declared for the peace process, and for the 11 March parliamentary and municipal elections and 27 May presidential elections, adding that they will defend themselves if the Army attacks their fronts.

The guerrilla group today sent a communique to the "Commission of Notables," which is acting as mediator between FARC and the government, stating that at least 12 of its fronts are being harassed by the Army and forced to defend themselves.

The communique, signed by FARC Chief of Staff Manuel Marulanda Velez and Jacobo Arenas, the group's ideologist and second in command, states that on the occasion of the elections another step should be taken toward achieving peace, and orders should be issued for a "general cease-fire" supervised by the "Commission of Notables."

The Commission of Notables consists of former Presidents Misael Pastrana (Social Conservative); Alfonso Lopez (Liberal); Diego Montana (president of the leftist Patriotic Union); Mario Revollo, cardinal of Bogota; and Fabio Echeverri, president of the industrialists' association.

Other guerrilla groups that have decreed a unilateral cease-fire on the occasion of the elections include the Maoist People's Liberation Army, the Quintin Lame Commando Group, and the Trostkyist Revolutionary Workers Party (PRT).

The 19 April Movement (M-19), which is about to conclude a peace process with the government and will turn over its weapons on 28 February, will participate in the elections with several of its commanders who have been pardoned or have no legal problems.

M-19 Commander General Carlos Pizarro today registered himself as a candidate for the post of Bogota mayor, and Antonio Navarro Wolff, the second in command, registered himself as a candidate for the post of Cali mayor.

The only guerrilla group still fighting is the pro-Castroist Camilista Union of the Army of National Liberation (UC-ELN), which has launched a campaign to boycott the elections.

The Army reported at noon today that several UC-ELN camps, quickly evacuated by the guerrilla forces, were discovered today in the Arauca Intendance on the eastern party of the country, adding that weapons, documents, and intendance material had been confiscated.

More on Proposal

PA1902044890 Paris AFP in Spanish 2039 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] Bogota, 18 Feb (AFP)—In a letter addressed to several ex-presidents and announcing a willingness for peace, the communist guerrilla organization Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARC], the oldest guerrilla group in Colombia, announced today that it will respect the results of the 11 March legislative elections and the 27 May presidential elections. FARC, which with 4,900 men has more members than any of the other guerrilla groups, operates on 40 fronts.

FARC proposed a cease-fire to Liberal Party President Virgilio Barco so the March elections, which will elect

114 senators, 119 representatives, 421 deputies to the assemblies in the 23 provinces, 10,547 town councilmen, 45 advisers to intendancies, and 1,009 mayors, "can be held in a climate of democracy and peace."

The document was addressed exclusively to a committee of Notables made up of ex-Presidents Carlos Lleras Restrepo, Misael Pastrana Borrero, Alfonso Lopez Michelsen, Julio Cesar Turbay, and Belisario Betancur, along with Colombia's Cardinal Primate Mario Revollo and Fabio Echeverry, president of the National Industrialists' Association.

The commission has been entrusted with interceding with the government to reach an agreement on a unilateral cease-fire during the legislative and presidential elections that will elect President Barco's successor for the 7 August 1990 - 7 August 1994 constitutional term.

The FARC letter to the members of the commission of Notables, drafted somewhere in the mountains of Colombia, stated: "With the great satisfaction of patriots, we have read and listened to your statement in reply to our message dated 30 January 1990."

The letter added: "The commission for peace—or commission of Notables, as some media have described it—that some of you have formed played an important role in the search for reconciliation and peace in Colombia. As far as FARC is concerned, we made good our pledged word. As a result of various circumstances, however, President Barco's government was unable to make good its word. You and we encouraged the government to appoint a commission of ministers to initiate a direct dialogue that could lead to a peace agreement, but the government was never able to appoint this commission.

"We believed that in this way we had opened a possibility of dialogue between the government and the Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Board, through the ministers for defense, interior, justice, and mines. We do not know why the government could not do it."

"While FARC complied and continues to comply with the unilateral cease-fire, the Army has been conducting military offensives against several FARC fronts, such as one, five, 10, 26, 38, 24, 18, 11, 23, 19, 41, 46, and others.

"FARC, however, persists in its effort to comply with its pledged word, naturally without relinquishing its legitimate defense when it comes to military operations," the letter to the Notables added.

"Our saying that through you we are proposing to the government a cease-fire so the March legislative elections and the May presidential elections can be held in a climate of peace and democratic guarantees does not change our previous stand regarding our unilateral cease-fire.

"We are now proposing that this cease-fire be general during the elections and that the eminent addressees of the letter become supervisors of what could be a new process of reconciliation and peace in the Colombian family," the letter stated.

The rebel leaders said that, because new disagreements and conflicts have appeared in the midst of a crisis never before heard of in the country, "we are insisting on this general cease-fire proposal."

The letter said further: "Because, far from diminishing, crimes against public order; such as abductions, extortion, and threats [boleteo]; not only have increased in the past few months but prevail in various areas of Colombia, we could hardly ask the Armed Forces to stop their function of protecting the lives and properties of the people.

"We think it is necessary to clarify that there is a difference between the police cases and those of public order that are the responsibility of the Armed Forces, according to the Constitution. Similarly, we must clarify that kidnappings, extortion, and threats are not part of the policy of the FARC staff.

"We are hereby proposing to the eminent supervisors to join us in the search for ways leading to peace and independent progress in the country.

"FARC staff, in the mountains of Colombia. Manuel Marulanda, alias "Tirofijo," Jacobo Arenas, Alfonso Cano, Raul Reyes, and Timoleon Jimenez."

Agrees to Church Mediation

PA1902131090 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2046 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] Bogota, 18 Feb (EFE)—The communist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia's (FARC) general staff stated that all the Colombian guerrilla movements agree the Catholic Church should serve as mediator in a broad peace process between the government and the guerrillas.

The FARC's statements are contained in a letter released today that was sent to Cardinal Alfonso Lopez Trujillo, president of the Episcopal Conference, in which the guerrillas respond to recent statements by the prelate, interpreted by the FARC as a mediation offer.

Although the declaration is only signed by the FARC commanders, in certain paragraphs they express themselves as if they were speaking for the Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Board, founded in September 1987.

In addition to FARC, the Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Board is composed of the pro-Mao Popular Liberation Army (EPL), the pro-Castro Camilista Union of National Liberation (UC-ELN), the pro-Trotsky Revolutionary Workers' Party (PRT), and the Indian group Quintin Lame.

The 19 April Movement (M-19), which has a leftist-nationalist orientation and which was part of the Simon

Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Board, began 16 months ago, of its own accord, a peace process with Virgilio Barco's Liberal Party government.

This peace plan, which has stumbled across several political obstacles that have precluded total compliance, could end on 28 February with M-19 handing over its weapons to a Socialist International (IS) commission, the final phase having been postponed on several occasions since last December.

"Your recent statements, Cardinal, on opening new roads toward peace seem important to us," the FARC commanders state in their letter to Cardinal Lopez Trujillo.

"Your Eminence says that it would mean great progress for the country if the FARC were to take part in a coherent peace process," the note goes on, adding: "Your Eminence should know that we have been involved in this effort ever since Belisario Betancur's (former Colombian president) amnesty, which ended a 25-year war."

In 1984, under Belisario Betancur's social-conservative government (1982-1986), a peace process was begun that resulted in the creation of the legal left-wing Patriotic Union (UP) movement—initially composed of former FARC guerrillas—and an agreement rendering the guerrilla group's general-staff camp inviolable.

The FARC leaders say in their letter to the cardinal that the Barco government "did not want or could not continue Betancur's policy of peace and reconciliation."

"If the Colombian church, judging by the cardinal's statements, serves as an itermediary between the government and the rebels, we applaud that humanistic and patriotic decision," the FARC general staff's letter says.

The guerrilla group issued a communique yesterday proposing that the Barco government declare a general cease-fire for the 11 March legislative and 27 May presidential elections, to which the government has not yet responded.

However, with previous requests, the government has limited itself to asking the guerrillas for unilateral truces to prove their desire for peace, which has only been successful in the case of the M-19.

All the members of the Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Board, with the exception of the UC-ELN, have declared unilateral truces during the last few weeks.

The pro-Castro group is the only one determined to continue a sabotage campaign against the elections, characterized by kidnappings, attacks on rural villages, threats to officials, and ambushes on the police and Army.

M-19, Government To Sign Final Agreement 19 Feb

PA1802033190 Paris AFP in Spanish 0200 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] Bogota, 17 Feb (AFP)—Official spokesmen reported here today that the Colombian Government and M-19 [19 April Movement] will sign a final peace agreement on 19 February.

The sources added that Interior Minister Carlos Lemos and M-19 leader Carlos Pizarro will agree this weekend on the time for the ceremony, which will be held at the National Capitol.

The signing of the agreement—which involves the demobilization of M-19, the delivery of its weapons to a commission from the Socialist International, and the reincorporation of its members into civilian life—has been repeatedly postponed.

Government spokesmen added that after the signing of the document, Pizarro and his deputy and ideologist Antonio Navarro will hold a news conference to explain the program that the organization, which is in the process of becoming legal, will carry out to participate in the 11 March legislative elections.

In some areas of the country, M-19 will present its own list of candidates, while in others it will participate in coalition with traditional parties and leftist groups.

The peace talks, recently sealed with an amnesty for the subversives, began in early 1989 between the administration of President Virgilio Barco and M-19, an extreme leftist and nationalist group which has been struggling for almost 20 years.

M-19 occupied the Dominican Embassy in Bogota for two months. The group held approximately 20 foreign diplomats hostage. In addition, M-19 stole 5,000 weapons from a military garrison and carried out the bloody takeover of Bogota's Justice Palace, an action that claimed the lives of 100 people.

35 Members Pardoned

PA2002021390 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 0015 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Thirty-five members of the 19 April Movement, M-19, involved in the events which occurred at the Justice Palace on 6-7 November 1985, have benefited from the pardon law sponsored by the national government, according to the decision adopted by a 14th Higher Court judge who suspended all legal actions against them.

The case was initially sent to the 30th Criminal Court, and Judge Uriel Alberto Amaya accepted the legal summary and ordered a trial against the 35 M-19 members, including the subversive group's top echelon.

The investigation was later transferred to the 14th Higher Court, and Judge Marta Carrizosa de Gonzalez enforced the pardon law and Article No. 34 of the Penal Code's procedures, thus suspending all legal actions against the rebels to facilitate the peace process currently under way between the executive branch and the rebel group.

The decision will favor Carlos Pizarro Leongomez, Antonio Navarro Wolff, Vera Grave, Rosenberg Pabon, Marcos Chalita, Otti Patino, and other members of the subversive group who are currently preparing to return to civilian life.

Police Chief Says No Talks With Extraditables

PA1902171090 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1800 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Report by Oscar Galvin]

[Text] The National Police commander, General Miguel Antonio Gomez Padilla, has ruled out any possibility of holding a dialogue with drug traffickers. He said that the drug summit in Cartagena had been a success, adding that security organizations in Colombia do not believe in the sincerity of the Extraditables. He said that the drug traffickers have only returned obsolete laboratories but that government officials have located large drug-production centers in Llanos del Yani. Regarding the powerful drug lords, the police commander said they will continue to search for them, and once they are found they will be placed under the control of Colombian officials.

[Begin Gomez Padiulla recording] We do not believe in the goodwill of drug traffickers. A citizen's goodwill is evidenced by his respect and obedience of the law. These persons should surrender if they know they are being sought. [end recording]

The Spanish, Bolivian, Peruvian, and Colombian police commanders will meet in Bogota prior to March 1990.

Minister on FARC, ELN Peace Proposals

PA2002021590 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 0010 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Cali—Government Minister Carlos Lemos Simmonds said today that one cannot believe in the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] or ELN [Army of National Liberation] peace proposals because they are sowing death and destruction among the peasant population while talking about social justice.

In an emphatic speech to an assembly of the Valle Farmers and Cattlemen's Society, the government minister stated that the FARC proposal for a unilateral cease-fire is cynical, adding that the ideas for which the guerrilla groups used to fight in Colombia have changed for hoodlum gangs' budgets. Furthermore, in some cases the guerrilla organizations have openly transferred their actions to the illegal and shady trading of drugs, Lemos said.

The government minister emphasized that he cannot understand why small and isolated groups of fanatics insist on trying to persuade the people that the country's future lies in a system that is currently repudiated in an irate and violent way by hundreds of millions of human beings in Asia and Eastern Europe.

What Jacobo Arenas and former priest Manuel Perez propose as a model for Colombia is nothing but a sad and catastrophic experiment that failed; a system of abusive and incompetent bureaucrats which was supported by state terrorism and which finally collapsed noisily and quickly without having anyone cry over it or make the slightest effort to prevent it, Lemos Simmonds stated.

The government minister also stated that the government will not abolish strict actions against those groups which continue to attack the Constitution and the law. The state will militarily retaliate against the actions carried out by these stubborn and recalcitrant groups, and they will be overpowered by force. There will be no peace for them as long as they insist on carrying out their criminal actions, and there will be no dialogue as long as they stubbornly use their rifles, Minister Carlos Lemos Simmonds said.

ELN Kidnaps Almaguer Mayor Gomez, Companion

PA1902221090 Paris AFP in Spanish 2102 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Bogota, 19 Feb (AFP)—Police have reported that Fabio Gomez Rengifo, mayor of Almaguer municipality, Cauca Department (Southeast), was kidnapped today by guerrillas of the pro-Castro Army of National Liberation (ELN).

The kidnapping took place at the El Tablon municipality where Gomez Rengifo had arrived with Jesus Bolivar Ceron, who was also kidnapped by ELN guerrillas belonging to the "Manuel Vasquez Castano" front.

Gomez Rengifo, who was elected mayor in March 1988 and ends his term in office on 1 June, had been suspended from his post as department governor last weekend, accused of abuse of authority.

The double kidnapping was not violent. Up to this afternoon, there has been no information concerning the reason Gomez Rengifo and Bolivar Ceron have been kidnapped.

Creating 'Critical' Situation

PA1902005590 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1800 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] Indiscriminate attacks by the National Liberation Army [ELN] have created a critical public order situation in several Norte de Santander municipalities, in most of Arauca Intendency, and in the southern regions of Bolivar, Cordoba, Cesar, and Cauca Departments. Candidates have been threatened and the people are afraid, while authorities are making efforts to impose respect for the right to vote.

The southern Cauca situation is typical of the critical situation that some regions of the country are enduring during the preelection period. Public order is a common issue in a department like Cauca where all sorts of guerrilla and paramilitary groups have operated within the framework of much poverty and neglect. It is paradoxical that while the government and the 19-April Movement have held peace talks in the Santo Domingo region to the north, the ELN, to the south, has announced its intention to wage war.

This week, released hostages delivered a lengthy letter from the Camilist Union-ELN to the governor of Cauca and the mayor of Bolivar. In that letter the rebels state their intention to prevent political campaigning in Cauca.

The municipalities affected by the guerrilla threat are Bolivar, Almaguer, San Sebastian, La Vega, and El Patia. The guerrillas are seizing towns in these municipalities and are directly coercing the peasants as they wage a no-vote campaign. The guerrilla communique states that 11 March will be a day of fighting, and that bridges will be blown up and attacks carried out on police posts and roads.

[Begin Cauca Department Governor Fernando Iragorri recording] Democratic institutions and the public force are making all sorts of efforts to guarantee the right to vote on 11 March. We hope the rebels understand that this is a normal procedure in the country and that neither the civilian nor the military authorities will permit any action aimed at preventing people from exercising their right to vote. [end recording]

So far, the consequences of the guerrilla threats have been an increased militarization of the region, the fear of candidates to wage political campaigns, and fear of the people to participate actively in the political debate.

Court-Martial Ordered for Army Patrol Officers

PA1902185690 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] Two officers and 10 noncommissioned officers of the National Army who were part of a military patrol, some time ago exchanged four tons of cocaine they had seized during a raid for bags of salt. The officers were dismissed from active service and will be brought before a court-martial.

Six months ago, an army patrol raided a farm called La Moneda in (Ayapel) municipality, Cordoba Department, where it seized four tons of cocaine in 160 bundles. Later, after claiming it had been ambushed, the patrol exchanged the cocaine bundles for 110 bags containing salt.

Even though the high military commands remain silent on the issue, it has been learned that a disciplinary court of the 10th Army Brigade, with headquarters in Tolemaida, has linked several officers belonging to the 10th Brigade's Colombia Battalion to the case. These officers include Lieutenant Colonel (Ricardo Nicolas Garcia Schadib), who was the battalion commander, two other officers, and 10 noncommissioned officers. All have been dismissed from active military service.

Apparently, the officers were paid 110 million pesos to exchange the cocaine, and the pesos were distributed as follows: 25 million pesos for each of the officers, 10 million pesos for each of the sergeants, and 5 million pesos for each of the corporals. Another 5 million pesos were given to a civilian.

Investigations also disclosed that a merchant from Caucasia, (Abraham Majuat Hernandez), carried out the negotiations with the military officers.

Soldiers Linked to Drug Lord Court-Martialed

PA1902192290 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Text] Court-martial proceedings began today in Bogota for a group of officers and noncommissioned officers charged with following orders from El Mexicano in the highly publicized raid on the Altos del Portal apartment building in Bogota. These soldiers are charged with homicide, theft, violation of private property, and abuse of authority.

Manuel Sanmiguel Buenaventura and (Farouk Gianine Diaz), two Army generals, are the president and prosecutor of the court-martial that will try two captains, three sergeants, and three corporals of the Army and Navy.

[Begin Diaz recording] We want to determine what happened at Altos del Portal, and if someone violated the law he will have to be punished. [end recording]

According to the 2,000-page preliminary investigation report, Captains Gustavo Osvaldo Rojas Romero and (Jorge Milton Coy Nunez) are the ones most seriously involved. The group of eight men is being tried for military crimes, and they belong to the Special Urban Forces Assault Group of the 13th Brigade. They had orders to raid two apartments, but they raided three more apartments from which carved emeralds, 1.5 million pesos, $7,900, and 50 pounds sterling were taken.

Four persons were killed during the raid, while (Angel Gaytan Maecha) escaped when he jumped out a window.

According to the preliminary investigations, the weapons found inside the apartments might have been taken from the military museum, and apparently Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, alias El Mexicano, paid 500 million pesos to the military for the operation.

During a recess in the court-martial proceedings, reporters from this station talked with Sergeant Mario Sandoval Mesa, one of the men being tried. He told us he lost his right foot during the raid as a result of a grenade explosion. He is charged with abuse of authority, but he told us he is optimistic and determined to prove he is innocent.

It is estimated the court-martial will last about two weeks. In the meantime, the two officers will remain detained at the Military Police Battalion headquarters, while the six noncommissioned officers are temporarily free.

EPL Head Dies in Clash With 11th Brigade

PA1602233590 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 3 Feb 90 p 7-B

[Text] Monteria—Jorge Antonio Leon, a.k.a. "Mario," head of the Francisco Garnica Front of the People's Liberation Army (EPL), died yesterday in a clash with the 11th Army Brigade.

Leon was with Dagoberto Manuel Vergara Cano, another guerrilla member, at El Gran Chorizo, a roadside restaurant 10 km from Monteria along the road to Planeta Rica (Cordoba).

The guerrillas were waiting for a large sum of money from the cattlemen and businessmen of that region, victims of the vaccine [protection money] that the guerrilla groups demand for not harming their families or their businesses.

Commander Colonel Ricardo Cifuentes Ordonez of the 11th Brigade said that Leon was a leader of the EPL's Francisco Garnica Front, which is composed of 50 men and women who operate in the regions of Ayapel, Montelibano, Puerto Libertador, Alto de San Jorge, Caucasia (north of Antioquia), San Marcos, Buena Vista, Pueblo Nuevo, and Planeta Rica (Cordoba). The authorities have reported that the subversive group has been extorting money from cattlemen for several months.

Czech Explosive Used To Blow Up Avianca Plane

PA1702035090 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2041 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Text] Bogota, 16 Feb (DPA)—Quoting sources from the Civil Aeronautics office, the Bogota newspaper EL TIEMPO reported today that members of the Medellin cartel used "Semtex," a Czechoslovak-made explosive, to blow up the Avianca plane on 27 November 1989 when 107 persons died.

The report is based on the results of tests by members of the U.S. FBI, who said the detonator was made of RDX and PETN, two explosive elements.

"The same detonator was used to blow up the Pan Am plane on a flight from Britain to the United States in December 1988," the newspaper said.

According to the Colombian secret police, the Medellin cartel bosses ordered the action against the Avianca plane "as a reprisal for the war the government (of President Virgilio Barco) declared on them."

Meanwhile, the Army has continued to raid farms that belong to the "drug barons." Yesterday, $25 million and 26 kg of gold in ingots were found at one of them.

The military operation was carried out in Pacho (50 km northeast of Bogota) where Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha (the cartel's number two man), who was shot to death by the police in December, had his "fort."

According to the official report, the gold had been received in payment for cocaine shipments to the FRG, France, and other European countries.

Since 18 August, when the Colombian Government declared its "all-out war" against the drug cartels, soldiers and policemen have found $37 million hidden in plush estates owned by the drug traffickers.

Yesterday, President Barco and the Colombian military and police chiefs reasserted that they will "continue to fight those outlaws until we rid the country of the cocaine plague."

The president was host to the antidrug summit, which brought together his colleagues U.S. President George Bush, Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora, and Peruvian President Alan Garcia.

"There will be absolutely no dialogue with the mafia leaders; they must submit to justice," Barco emphasized, denying newspaper reports that he was "interested in listening to the drug traffickers."

More Than $35 Million Found at Gacha Farms

PA1902023990 Paris AFP in Spanish 1737 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] Bogota, 18 Feb (AFP)—General Ramon Niebles, commander of the 13th Brigade, said today that the search for the boundless treasure left by deceased drug-trafficker Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, alias El Mexicano, will be expanded in the next few days. He reported the finding of millions of U.S. dollars and gold stashed in European banks. The confiscation of properties belonging to Rodriguez Gacha began on 13 November, and as of 15 February the deposits amounted to $35,747,620, in addition to numerous vehicles and weapons found at four farms near the towns of Guaduas and Pacho in the province of Cundinamarca in central Colombia.

General Niebles said that the men of the 13th Brigade will continue their exhaustive search for Rodriguez Gacha's treasure. According to intelligence sources, there are other caches left by the second in command of the Medellin Cartel, the drug ring led by Pablo Escobar.

The general also said that the cash confiscated to date will be deposited in a special account at the Banco de la Republica and will be provisionally handled by the National Drug Council.

The 13th Brigade also reported that El Mexicano was sometimes paid in counterfeit money. Some counterfeit 100-dollar bills—a small amount whose total was not revealed—were found among the confisctaed money.

The farms belonging to El Mexicano were raided on 18 August 1989 after the murder of Senator Luis Carlos Galan, presidential hopeful for the Liberal Party, by paid killers at the service of the drug mafias. One of the farms where the Army found the buried millions of dollars and gold is located in the town of Guaduas, 70 km west of Bogota. The other three farms are in Pacho, 55 km northeast of Bogota.

El Mexicano had a veritable "bunker" on a farm in Santa Rosa. "It was an underground structure built with modern engineering techniques, and had respirators, a water pump, a refrigerator, and food cabinets."

According to the Army, the drug trafficker might have been holed up in the bunker for several months before being killed with his son Freddy in the Tolu area, 850 km north of Bogota.

The confiscations reported to the press a few hours ago also list 213 rifles, one machine gun, 7,644 rounds of several types of ammunition, nine vehicles, an amphibious boat, four communications radios, and a relay station.

The following is the list of dollars and gold confiscated:

Date	Farm	Amount	Present Location
13 Nov	Cuernavaca	5,240,000	Banco de la Republica
2 Feb	Freddy I	3,214,000	Banco de la Republica
9 Feb	Cuernavaca	4,865,000	Banco de la Republica
13 Feb	Mazatlan	4,929,000	13th Brigade
14 Feb	Santa Rosa	8,354,000	13th Brigade
15 Feb	Santa Rosa	7,000,000	13th Brigade
14 Feb	Santa Rosa	28 kg	13th Brigade
25 Feb	Daniel Rodriguez	132 kg	13th Brigade

Peru

Garcia Labels U.S. Summit Stance 'Revolutionary'

PY1802022690 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Interview with President Alan Garcia by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Mr. President, are you satisfied with the results of the Cartagena meeting?

[Garcia] I am very much satisfied for several reasons. First of all, because finding a solution to the problem of illegal coca growing and drug trafficking can be a powerful instrument for development, because we can use resources from the industrialized nations. I believe that this is a very important step. What we can get as cooperation to solve coca growing is more important than what we can get from banks or the IMF. This is where great progress was made.

Second, for the first time the United States has sat at a table with Latin American countries to discuss an issue multilaterally. In the past the United States used to say that it would only talk with one country, and this is how it kept us all divided and weak. I believe the steps taken are very important.

The third reason is the economic responsibility the United States is assuming. The United States signed something that is really revolutionary. It says that if Colombia, Bolivia, and Peru are earning dollars from drug trafficking, then by struggling against it those countries will stop earning those dollars. The United States has to give resources to support the balance of payments and the reserves of the three countries. It must also give resources to the peasants who will be replacing coca with other products, and the United States must guarantee the purchase of those products in the U.S. markets. I believe that these things are really revolutionary. I believe that this is really important for the future of the country.

[Reporter] Could you explain the extradition agreement between Peru and the United States, which also includes drug traffickers?

[Garcia] Many years ago Peru signed an extradition agreement with the United States. In other words, if someone committed a crime in the United States and that person sought refuge in Peru, the United States could request the extradition of that criminal. The same thing will hapapen if a Peruvian criminal like (Retaco) or any other criminal goes to the United States; Peru can request his extradition. What we did was include drug trafficking in the old extradition agreement. In other words, those who are involved in the criminal action of drug trafficking are included in the extradition agreement. I would like to explain that before doing that we consulted the Peruvian Supreme Court, which in writing answered that it was legal to include the crime of drug trafficking, which is one of the greatest crimes against humanity, in the extradition agreement.

[Reporter] I believe the extradition treaty was signed in 1889, if I am not mistaken.

[Garcia] It was signed in 1899, and we have now included drug trafficking. I believe our action is quite in keeping with current times. There was no drug trafficking in 1899; perhaps there were other crimes then. This is why we have to adjust the extradition agreement to current times.

Garcia Speaks on 'Struggle Against Imperialism'

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[Speech by President Alan Garcia on 18 February at a public meeting in Ica—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Peru has faced the great adversity of foreign imperialism. Peru, a poor and weak but sovereign country, has raised its voice to face the power and greed of the international banking sectors. Peru and the Peruvian state have refused to pay an unjust debt. This will be forever regarded as the pioneer and vanguard attitude of the Third World.

No one will ever forget that, in the first two months of my administration, the Peruvian resources that were scheduled to be used to pay the foreign debt were instead used for the benefit of Peru. All Peruvians admitted at the time that we had begun a process of capitalization and development.

I have come here today to deliver some tractors. But I want to tell you that during the APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance] administration the number of tractors has doubled. When APRA assumed power in 1985, there were 5,060 tractors in Peru. But after I deliver these Italian tractors, there will be 11,200. This means that the amount of land being farmed mechanically in Peru has doubled. [applause, cheers of "Alan, Alan"]

The hundreds of millions of dollars that have been invested in equipment operating in Peru today is the same money that, in a sovereign decision, the fatherland refused to send abroad to foreign international banks. [shouts of "Well done"] The anti-imperialistic ideal that we uphold is based on this main principle: to retain our resources within Peru.

We have also raised our voices to defend the sovereignty and integrity of our continent, because we are a proud and free continent. When we saw militaristic imperialism threaten and invade a brother country, we had the honor—the sad honor—of being the only one to raise our voice and to make imperialism, because of the firmness of the Peruvian stance, heed our demands and withdraw its invading troops from Panama."

I remember the night of 20 December 1989, when at 0500 GMT I was informed from Washington that 24,000 American soldiers had occupied Panama. I received many phone calls from people who told me: It is a done deed. Let them invade the country. We do not need to confront them. I received phone calls from people in Peru and abroad telling me that we could not confront them, that we could not make any demands. They said for us to act as if nothing had happened. Let us recognize the government that they have put in power. But I said no. [shouts of "Well done"] I was told: If you keep silent, you can solve your problem with the IMF. But I said no, because the dignity of a nation is not for sale. No, because the dignity of Latin America cannot be bought. [applause, cheers of "Alan, Alan"]

Causing fear and astonishment for many people in Peru and throughout Latin America, I said: We are poor. We have no great military power. We have no planes or bombs. We have no banks filled with millions. But we have the power of reason, which is more powerful. We have the power of justice, which is greater. We have the power of freedom, which is more important. I said that we would recall the Peruvian ambassador from Washington. We would withdraw from the military alliance that we have with the United States, which allowed it to perpetrate this invasion. We would tell the United States that until the last soldier was withdrawn, we would not sit at any negotiating table, not on drugs or on any other subject.

But the Peruvian rightist sectors described everything I said on 21 December, eight hours after the Panamanian invasion, as insane. They described it as demagogic theatrics. They said we should comply with the U.S. actions. But I said no. Although we respect the United States and its people, we do not tolerate imperialistic impositions. We do not tolerate other countries intervening in the sovereign affairs of sister-nations.

I can state with great satisfaction that, 24 hours before the Cartagena summit and two months after the invasion, the last U.S. soldier withdrew from Panama. This was the sine qua non condition for my attendance at the summit. [applause, cheers]

This proves that you can be poor and economically weak, but that you can have the strength that comes from reason, from moral principles; that you can have justice on your side; that you can succeed, that sooner or later you will be successful. Perhaps justice may come late, but it comes. When I see the oligarchic attack of the prepotent economic power hitting Peru, I tell the people that the rightist sectors may be victorious. But it will be an ephemeral, temporary, and momentary victory because it is the people who will succeed, the people who will conquer, because the people are right, the people have justice on their side, and because Peru belongs to the people. [applause, cheers]

One of the great objectives of the first APRA government in Peruvian history was to struggle against imperialism; to let the poor countries of the world know that they also have the right to be heard; and to struggle for Latin American integration. This was [former APRA leader] Haya de la Torre's great anti-imperialistic mandate. He and Leon de Viveros taught us that we poor countries can do nothing if we stand alone and isolated. They taught us that we must be united, that we must achieve integration, that we must form an identity and undertake joint projects.

Our government has upheld a single objective: to achieve integration. To honor Leon de Viveros, I proposed that the meeting of presidents from eight Latin American countries be held here in Ica, a land of contrasts and difficulties, but also a land of hope.

Our government has maintained its goal of achieving integration. Just 48 hours ago we saw how Latin American countries, when they rally around an objective, can summon the most powerful country in the world and sit down at the negotiating table, how they can demand that this country assume its responsibilities.

The Cartagena meeting shows that Latin America is respected when it is united. Cartagena shows that when we are united we can be heard and we can obtain the resources we need for development from the wealthy. In Cartagena we explained that our peasants are not criminals just because coca and cocaine are produced in Peru, Bolivia, and Colombia. We explained that coca and cocaine are produced in our countries because of the great demand for these products from the wealthy countries. We explained that these wealthy markets establish such high prices for coca and cocaine that it is the only alternative for the poor and landless peasants.

I told the U.S. President that world coffee prices decreased from $140 to $70 in 1989, halving its price. I told him that $70 was not enough for a peasant to produce all the hectares of coffee he needs, because production costs are higher than the price he can get for his product in the market. I told the U.S. President: Do you want to see peasants die in misery? It is the wealthy countries and banks that have impoverished and drained Latin American countries. In doing this, they have established the conditions that promote coca and cocaine production.

Is it not the IMF and its economic shock policies that have impoverished Latin American countries for 20 years? Is it not true that if we want dollars we have no alternative other than to resort to this illegal cocaine trade?

The United States has accepted and understood that it is poverty and bad international market prices for fish meal and coffee that cause misery; that it is the foreign debt and high interest rates that drain our dollars; and that this has led to the cocaization of Latin American economies. If we want to struggle against coca, we cannot resort to the police pursuing peasants. We have to struggle by supplying resources to peasants so they can farm other products. We must struggle to make wealthy countries buy agricultural products at good prices for 10 years so we can change the economy of the Huallaga Valley and the 200,000 hectares planted with coca throughout Peru.

We have been able to talk to the United States on equal terms. We have told them that it is not a police problem, that it is mainly an economic, social, and political problem, and that if they really want to seriously and responsibly resolve the drug problem then they have to invest in their future. They must make massive economic investments to alter the use of the land that is being used to grow coca. I think the Cartagena Declaration signed by the four countries reflects our proposal.

It means that when Latin America is united as Haya de la Torre taught us, it can be heard, it can be respected, and it can begin a productive dialogue to achieve a just world. [applause, cheers] [passage omitted]

United Left Candidate on Economic Measures

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[Interview with United Left presidential candidate Henry Pease Garcia by Mauricio Bedoya during the "Intermission" feature on 15 February at the Peruana studios in Lima—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Bedoya] Do you attribute the increased strength of the rightist sector to the performance of the government?

[Pease] I am absolutely sure...

[Bedoya, interrupting] You should be referring to the bank-nationalization project that prompted the appearance of that rightist sector.

[Pease] That was only an external factor. I believe the great package of September 1988 is more important than that. Demagoguery...

[Bedoya, interrupting] But why did that benefit the rightist sector? It should have actually benefited the left.

[Pease] For a very simple reason. The government did not only adopt measures that are promoted by the rightist sector; it began a process I call the destruction of the social structure, just as the structure of public enterprises is now being destroyed. We will reach a point...

[Bedoya, interrupting] Excuse me, Dr. Pease, but there is a contradiction in what you are saying...

[Pease, interrupting] No, sir.

[Bedoya] ...because you said that the big package of 1988 involved the enforcement of policies promoted by the rightist sector.

[Pease] Right.

[Bedoya] Therefore, the people should not see the rightist sector as a feasible solution.

[Pease] After the nationalization of banks...

[Bedoya, interrupting] Right, I was trying to get to that point.

[Pease] This initiative, which was enforced in a contradictory manner, ended up promoting the political initiative of the rightist sector. Under those circumstances, the government began to adopt an economic policy that was essentially similar to the policy promoted by the rightist sector. The rightist sector, however, criticized this policy. We should recall the behavior of Mr. Moreira and other commentators who demanded a change. The essence of their proposals, however, was economic shock. That is why when Vargas Llosa refers to shocks we Peruvians should recall September 1988 and remember that this time it will be just a bit worse. The patient is now in a more serious condition and he could die.

[Bedoya] Therefore to prevent the reaction and rise of this sector it would have been better not to touch the interests of the rightist sector.

[Pease] The point is that if you tease a lion, the lion will eat you. You should know what to do and how to do it. The obvious thing about that project is that the APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance] majority, which was against it, made such a mess that nothing came out of it.

[Bedoya] What will the United Left do if it wins the elections?

[Pease] The main problem that the country has to tackle today after this disaster is to find a way out of the crisis and to begin a process of constructing peace. The first goal calls for an economic policy with foundations that should be completely different from those behind the economic policy of the 1980's. That is why we advocate an indexation of salaries and wages, not only as a measure to defend family economics but as a macroeconomic measure. The adoption of package after package has resulted in a situation in which families have nothing to eat and businessmen have no incentive to invest. This has boosted speculation...

[Bedoya, interrupting] How will you [words indistinct] the indexation?

[Pease] First, those who earn more should pay taxes, because this government and the previous administration have exempted the majority of those who can pay taxes. Second...

[Bedoya, interrupting] You want to collect first and then adopt your policies?

[Pease] You have to begin, as (Javier Iguiniz) noted a few days ago, by levying emergency taxes, followed by tax reforms. An emergency program includes immediate measures, which will have immediate results and will entail...

[Bedoya, interrupting] How do you think the rightist sector and the (?people) will react?

[Pease] There will be a strong reaction, but a debate on institutional matters that is difficult to understand is quite different from a subject that affects our own food and the food of our children.

[Bedoya] Do you think that you will participate in a runoff election?

[Pease] I am sure I will. [passage omitted]

Candidate Barrantes Comments on Privatization

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[Text] According to Alfonso Barrantes, presidential candidate for the Movement of the Socialist Left [MIS], the MIS will oppose the privatization of public enterprises because the move will only lead to their purchase by multinational companies. The MIS program will propose to provide incentives for the exploitation of energy resources.

[Begin recording] [Barrantes] It does not matter what you call it—the bible says you can recognize something by its fruits. You can call it shock program, gradualism, or whatever. The result is what matters. The difference between our program and the others is our goal of a progressive economic stabilization that looks after the poorest sectors first. We are talking about those sectors the state has never cared about. Therefore, when we implement the well-known corrections, these sectors will not be hit so hard.

[Reporter] The [words indistinct] speak of privatizing nonproductive enterprises.

[Barrantes] We do not advocate state ownership of enterprises because our historic experience shows that this is not the solution. We think that public enterprises that are considered strategically important or are involved in defense should remain under state ownership. Inefficient enterprises can be reorganized, become mixed, or be sold.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct].

[Barrantes] That was in 1984. That proposal expressed the policy of the front I was presiding over. The organization had agreed on those viewpoints and I, as the organization's spokesman, had to speak for them. I do not have to continue to support viewpoints I disagreed with after the split. We have been saying for the past few months that we do not favor either privatization or state ownership of enterprises. [end recording]

Former Minister Views Importance of Narcodollars

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[Text] Lima, 16 Feb (EFE)—Former Industry and Commerce Minister Manuel Romero Caro reported in Lima today that at least 50 percent of Peru's 1989 imports were financed with narcodollars. The importance of this financing, Romero Caro added, has been taken into account by several Peruvian Governments. They have adopted a dual position in the antidrug struggle because "they fight drug trafficking but also allow narcodollars to enter the economy."

Romero Caro said Peruvian purchases abroad amounted to $2 billion in 1989; 50 percent were financed by Peruvian importers with dollars from the free market and 50 percent with narcodollars. He said the Peruvian Government has granted importers up to 45 percent of the dollars necessary to finance their businesses and that Peruvian exports reached $3.6 billion in 1989.

Romero Caro estimated that the gross value of Peru's production of cocaine paste—the first coca leaf byproduct—amounts to almost $2.8 billion, of which between $840 million and $1.4 billion "reportedly remains in Peru to pay for the (?domestic) raw material."

"In addition to this figure, $700 million is reportedly earmarked to pay for the coca. This leads us to conclude that the total value of the production that remains in the country is between $1.5 and $2.1 billion, a figure that is much higher than the $1 billion reported by official sources."

Romero Caro, an economist, has suggested the oil palm as an alternative crop to replace coca because this is a plant that adapts well to the jungle climate and because it realizes a high annual output. He added that there is a vast domestic market for this product, taking into account that there is a shortage of raw material for domestic oils in Peru.

Romero Caro stressed the need to give full guarantees to the peasants in the Peruvian jungle because the terrorist organizations have disrupted the work of a cooperative called Endepalma, which harvests the oil palm crop. He reported that until 1989 some 1,200 employees worked for this firm; 70 percent of them have resigned.

Bank Employees To Stage 24-Hour Strike 19 Feb

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[Text] Lima, 18 Feb (EFE)—Peruvian Bank Employees Federation (FEB) leader Jorge Diaz today reported that on 19 February at least 30,000 bank employees will stage a 24-hour strike throughout the country to demand better salaries.

Diaz said employers should grant at least a 2 million-inti ($143) readjustment. Diaz added that he will meet with workers' leaders from all over the country on 20 February to coordinate an indefinite general strike if their demands are not met.

Most private banks, some state-owned banks, and others from the so-called "associated bank," made up of state and private capital, will join the strike, Diaz added. The cashing of checks, bills, vouchers, and promissory notes, foreign currency exchange, and financial and trade transactions will be suspended during the strike, Diaz said.

Venezuela

Further on Asylum for 4 ETA Members

PA1902184290 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1456 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Caracas, 19 Feb (EFE)—The Venezuelan Government today confirmed that four members of the Spanish terrorist ETA [Basque Fatherland and Liberty], who had taken refuge at the Apostolic Nunciature in Panama on 20 December, were granted asylum in Venezuela on 10 February.

Venezuelan Foreign Minister Alejandro Izaguirre today confirmed that the four ETA members are living in San Cristobal, Tachira State, 800 km south of Caracas and 40 km from the border with Colombia.

Izaguirre added that the four ETA members, Miguel Angel Ardana, Juan Carlos Arrioran, Juan Jose Aritizaga, and Koldo Zaralegui, are working in San Cristobal and that the Venezuelan Government has prohibited them from participating in any political activity.

The minister said asylum was granted to them on the basis of Article 116 of the Venezuelan Constitution, and he added that Venezuela's hospitality entailed some restrictions for them. The minister said the government has prohibited them from directly or indirectly participating in political activities.

The apostolic nuncio in Panama, Spaniard Sebastian Laboa, on 17 February sent a message of thanks to Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez for "receiving the four former ETA members in this great Bolivarian nation."

The ETA members had been living in Panama for several years as a result of an agreement between the Spanish Government and the previous Panamanian regime. They took refuge in the Nunciature a few hours after the U.S. military invasion of Panama on 20 December.

Venezuela granted asylum to 11 ETA members, nine men and two women, on 29 May. In 1984, eight other ETA members, who were expelled from France, were accepted in Venezuela, where they began a normal life but under the regulation that they had to report to the authorities every week and be under police surveillance.